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Supreme Court of the United States

OCTOBER TERM—1937.

No. 636

Supreme Court, U. S.
FILED
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CHARLES ELMORE CROPLEY
CLERK

ELECTRIC BOND AND SHARE COMPANY,
AMERICAN GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY,
AMERICAN POWER & LIGHT COMPANY,
NATIONAL POWER & LIGHT COMPANY,
ELECTRIC POWER & LIGHT CORPORATION,
UNITED GAS CORPORATION,
POWER SECURITIES CORPORATION,
LEHIGH POWER SECURITIES CORPORATION,
UTAH POWER & LIGHT COMPANY,
NEBRASKA POWER COMPANY,
PACIFIC POWER & LIGHT COMPANY,
UNITED GAS PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY,
HOUSTON GULF GAS COMPANY,
APPALACHIAN ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY,
ATLANTIC CITY ELECTRIC COMPANY,
EASTON CONSOLIDATED ELECTRIC COMPANY,
THE OHIO POWER COMPANY,
PENNSYLVANIA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY,
THE SCRANTON ELECTRIC COMPANY,
THE WASHINGTON WATER POWER COMPANY,
CENTRAL ARIZONA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY,
INDIANA & MICHIGAN ELECTRIC COMPANY,
IDAHO POWER COMPANY,
THE MONTANA POWER COMPANY,
SPOKANE UNITED RAILWAYS,
SPOKANE CENTRAL HEATING COMPANY and
MONTANA POWER GAS COMPANY,
Defendants-Appellants,

against

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION,
Plaintiff-Appellee,

and

HOMER S. CUMMINGS, individually and as Attorney General of the United States, JAMES A. FARLEY, individually and as Postmaster General of the United States, and JAMES M. LANDIS, ROBERT E. HEALY, GEORGE C. MATHEWS, JAMES D. ROSS and WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS, individually and as constituting the Securities and Exchange Commission,
Cross-Defendants-Appellees.

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT (INCLUDING BRIEF IN SUPPORT THEREOF).

THOMAS D. THACHER,
JOHN F. MACLANE,
Counsel for Petitioners.

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OCTOBER TERM—1937.

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SPOKANE CENTRAL HEATING COMPANY and
MONTANA POWER GAS COMPANY,
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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION,
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HOMER S. CUMMINGS, individually and as Attorney General of the United States, JAMES A. FARLEY, individually and as Postmaster General of the United States, and JAMES M. LANDIS, ROBERT E. HEALY, GEORGE C. MATHEWS, JAMES D. ROSS and WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS, individually and as constituting the Securities and Exchange Commission,
Cross-Defendants-Appellees.

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT (INCLUDING BRIEF IN SUPPORT THEREOF).

To the Honorable Chief Justice and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States:

Your petitioners respectfully pray that a writ of certiorari be issued to review the order (R. 2335) of the Circuit

Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit entered on November 15, 1937, pursuant to decision of that court (Manton, Learned Hand and Swan, JJ.) rendered on November 8, 1937 (R. 2315-2333), affirming the decree (R. 2260) of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York which was entered in this cause on March 8, 1937.

The appeal to the Circuit Court of Appeals was allowed by the District Court on April 5, 1937, and the transcript of record was filed on May 3, 1937. Forthwith, and before any proceedings were had in the Circuit Court of Appeals, petitioners filed a petition in this Court asking for writ of certiorari that the cause be certified here for determination. This petition was concurred in by the Solicitor General in pursuance of the desire of all parties for an early final decision of the issues involved. This petition was denied on June 1, 1937.

The cause having now been decided by the Circuit Court of Appeals in the usual course, the petition for certiorari is renewed in order to obtain final decision by this Court of the important questions presented.

Opinions Below.

The opinion of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York (R. 2172) was filed on January 29, 1937, and is reported in 18 F. Supp. 131.

The decision of the Circuit Court of Appeals, filed November 8, 1937, is accompanied by an opinion by Judge Manton, a concurring opinion by Judge Learned Hand, and a concurrence in the result by Judge Swan. These opinions have not yet been reported but appear in the record (R. 2316-2335).

Jurisdiction.

Jurisdiction to issue the writ requested is found in the provisions of Section 240(a) of the Judicial Code, as amended by the Act of February 13, 1925, c. 229, §1, 43 Stat. 938 (28 U. S. C. A. §347(a)).

The Questions Presented.

This case involves the constitutionality of the "Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935"[1] (hereinafter referred to as the "Act") and is the case chosen by the government in which to have determined by this Court the constitutionality of that Act.

The questions presented are:

(1) whether defendant holding companies may be enjoined from engaging in interstate commerce or from using the mails and instrumentalities of interstate commerce in the performance of their normal business activities and from owning securities in subsidiary companies carrying on like activities, in accordance with the provisions of Section 4(a) of said Act, unless they shall register with plaintiff, Securities and Exchange Commission, under Section 5(a) thereof;

(2) whether the Act, including Sections 4(a) and 5, is not void as a whole because its inclusive definitions and

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[1] Approved August 26, 1935, 49 Stat. 803, 15 U. S. C. A. §79. It is Title I of "The Public Utility Act of 1935" entitled "An Act to Provide for the Control and Regulation of Public Utility Holding Companies, and for other purposes". Title I is designated "The Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935" (sec. 33) and is entitled "Title I—Control of Public Utility Holding Companies."

provisions extend, without distinction, to persons and to acts without, as well as to those within, the constitutional authority of Congress;

(3) whether Section 4(a) is not unconstitutional and void because it conditions the right to use the mails and facilities of interstate commerce in normal business transactions upon registration and consequent submission to a multitude of prohibitions, regulations and penalties which have no relation to the regulation of interstate commerce or of the mails, which violate the Fifth and Tenth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States and are an unconstitutional delegation of legislative power;

(4) whether Section 4(a) does not contravene the Fifth, Sixth and Eighth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States because, as a penalty for failure to register, it deprives certain of the petitioners of their ordinary civil rights to use the mails and facilities of interstate commerce and by Section 18(f) is enforceable, as a penalty, by injunction and without trial by jury, and is so enforced by the decree affirmed in the court below;

(5) whether Sections 4(a) and 5 of said Act, which require registration and the filing of certain information with the Commission after registration, constitute a separable system of regulation, or whether they are merely auxiliary to the system of regulation prescribed by subsequent sections of said Act applicable solely to registered holding companies;

(6) if Section 5(b) is to be construed as a separable regulation sufficient in itself (if valid) to support the penalties of Section 4(a), whether it is not invalid because it is

not a regulation of commerce or of the mails or because it violates the Fifth or Tenth Amendments to the Constitution, or because it is an unconstitutional delegation of legislative power;

(7) if Sections 4(a) and 5 are not independent but are auxiliary to said system of regulation,

(a) whether this substantive system of regulation specifically prescribed by Sections 6 to 13 inclusive of said Act constitutes as a whole or in any separable part thereof a valid regulation of commerce or of the mails, and

(b) whether each of the substantive regulations of Sections 6 to 13 inclusive violates the Fifth or Tenth Amendments or is an unconstitutional delegation of legislative power;

(8) whether, if registration may be required as in effect required by decree of the court below, petitioners or any of them by their cross-bill may presently draw in question the constitutionality of any of the substantive regulations of Sections 6 to 13 inclusive to which upon registration they are subjected by said Act; and if so

(9) whether any of the substantive regulations imposed upon registered holding companies and their subsidiaries by Sections 6 to 13 inclusive thus drawn in question are not regulations of the mails or of interstate commerce, are violations of the Fifth or Tenth Amendments, or are improper delegations of legislative power.

Statement.

(a) The Act.

The Act is printed verbatim in the Appendix hereto. It is summarized here in bare outline.

Section 1 declares that public utility holding companies and their subsidiaries "are affected with a national public interest"; that upon the basis of facts disclosed by reports of the Federal Trade Commission and otherwise, the interests of investors and of consumers of electric energy and gas are, or may be, adversely affected by certain alleged evil practices of such companies; that it is the policy of the Act to eliminate those evils connected with public utility holding companies which are engaged in interstate commerce or activities which directly affect or burden interstate commerce; and that this policy is to be effectuated by compelling the simplification of public utility holding company systems and the elimination of holding companies, except as otherwise expressly provided.

Section 2 defines the essential terms of the Act. A "holding company" (subsec. (a)(7)) is one which controls an electric or gas public utility. Ownership of 10% of the voting securities creates a *prima facie* presumption of control which may be disproved. Companies owning less than 10% of such securities may, however, be found to possess control and to be holding companies. A "subsidiary" (subsec. (a)(8)) is any company controlled by a holding company.

Section 3 permits, or perhaps directs (if consistent with the public interest and the interest of investors and consumers), the exemption from the Act of limited classes of holding companies (the presence or absence of interstate

business not being the determining factor); and further permits the exemption of classes of subsidiaries from any or all of the provisions of the Act to the extent the Commission deems such exemption necessary or appropriate in the public interest.

The regulatory controls of the Act as hereinafter described apply only to "registered" holding companies and their subsidiaries. Section 4 of the Act provides the mechanism by which registration is compelled. Holding companies (and holding companies alone) are prohibited by subsection (a) of this section, unless and until they register with the Commission, from engaging in any business in interstate commerce or from using the mails or instrumentalities of interstate commerce for normal and useful business activities, and from owning, controlling, or holding with power to vote, securities of subsidiaries which do any of the acts prohibited to unregistered holding companies, or from selling such securities if any use of the mails or instrumentalities of commerce is directly or indirectly involved. Thus since both ownership and disposal (through ordinary channels) of securities of subsidiaries is equally prohibited, registration is inevitable.

Section 4(b) is a mandatory requirement of registration based upon past distributions of securities so framed as to be applicable to practically all holding companies. However, it was not relied upon by the government in this case.

By Section 5(a), registration is accomplished by filing the simple "Notification of Registration" and, thereupon, the prohibitions of Section 4(a) no longer apply to the holding company.

By subsection (b) of Section 5, registered holding companies are required to file within a reasonable time after registering a "Registration Statement" containing such information concerning financial structure and corporate interrelations and the properties and business of themselves and all their subsidiaries as the Commission may prescribe as necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors and consumers.

By Section 6 and the following sections, registered holding companies and their subsidiaries are regulated in almost all aspects of their business, except the rendition of utility service. The acquisition of securities and utility assets (Secs. 9 and 10), the sale of securities and utility assets (Sec. 12), the issuance of securities (Secs. 6 and 7), the redemption of securities (Sec. 12), the declaration of dividends (Sec. 12), the making of loans to companies in the same system (Sec. 12) and the performance of service, sales and construction contracts (Sec. 13) by such companies are all subjected to control by the plaintiff Commission. The Act further provides that as soon as practicable after January 1, 1939, with exceptions not here important, all holding companies whose subsidiaries do not constitute a single geographically integrated system shall cease to exist (Sec. 11).

The remaining sections of the Act, Sections 14 to 29, are administrative and penal auxiliaries to the regulatory system. Section 32 is the usual form of separability provision.

While Section 1 of the Act assumes the existence of federal jurisdiction by reason of the fact that holding companies and their subsidiaries make use of the mails and instrumentalities of interstate commerce, and Section 4(a) seeks to make that assumed jurisdiction effective by deny-

ing the right to engage in interstate commerce or to use the mails and instrumentalities of interstate commerce to holding companies who do not submit to the regulatory system by registering, neither the definitions of the Act, the provisions relating to exemptions, nor the substantive regulatory system, contain any provision which makes the presence or absence of interstate commerce a term or condition of jurisdiction over the subject company or over the activities regulated.

The Circuit Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit in *Burco, Inc.* v. *Whitworth,* 81 F. (2d) 721, 737-738 (1936), has said that the scope of the Act is more extensive than any Congressional regulations of the use of the mails or the instrumentalities of interstate commerce which have stood the test of litigation and that its application to companies and transactions within its terms would bring about a regulation and control of local business in the field to which it relates comparable in its effect to that which the National Industrial Recovery Act sought to impose upon conditions of local trade and that which the Agricultural Adjustment Act sought to impose upon the production of agricultural products.

(b) The Nature of Proceedings.

The suit was brought by the Commission to enjoin the principal holding company defendants[1] from conducting

[1] Electric Bond and Share Company (Bond and Share), American Gas and Electric Company (American Gas), American Power & Light Company (American Company), National Power & Light Company (National Company), Electric Power & Light Corporation (Electric Company), United Gas Corporation (United Company), Power Securities Corporation, Lehigh Power Securities Corporation, Utah Power & Light Company, Nebraska Power Company, Pacific Power & Light Company, United Gas Public Service Company and Houston Gulf Gas Company.

the activities prohibited by Section 4(a) of the Act until they shall register, as required by Section 5(a). Certain other subsidiary companies against which the Commission sought no relief, were permitted to intervene in order to make possible a decision in this suit of all issues determinable at this time. Certain of these other petitioners[2] are unregistered holding companies which have been temporarily exempted from the provisions of the Act by rule of the Commission, and the remaining petitioners[3] are either utility or non-utility subsidiaries of one or more of the holding company petitioners.[4]

The defendants by answer deny the duty to register on the ground that the registration provisions taken by themselves or in conjunction with the other provisions of the Act are unconstitutional for the reasons stated elsewhere herein. They also seek by cross-bill to enjoin the plaintiff and the cross-defendants from enforcing the Act or a declaratory judgment that it is unconstitutional.

Plaintiff and cross-defendants filed a reply asking that the cross-bill and counterclaim be dismissed on the ground that it presents no presently justiciable controversy.

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[2] Appalachian Electric Power Company, Atlantic City Electric Company, Easton Consolidated Electric Company, The Ohio Power Company, Pennsylvania Power & Light Company, The Scranton Electric Company and The Washington Water Power Company.

[3] Central Arizona Light and Power Company, Indiana & Michigan Electric Company, Idaho Power Company, The Montana Power Company, Spokane United Railways, Spokane Central Heating Company and Montana Power Gas Company.

[4] Since the entry of the decree, United Gas Corporation, United Gas Public Service Company, Houston Gulf Gas Company, Nebraska Power Company, The Washington Water Power Company and The Scranton Electric Company, through internal reorganization, have ceased to be holding companies. They are still, however, subsidiaries of one or more holding company petitioners.

(c) Stipulation of Facts.

The case was tried on a stipulation of facts (R. 261-639), filed June 30, 1936, which describes in detail the intercorporate relations, business activities and functions of each of the petitioners and their subsidiaries.

It appears from the stipulation that Bond and Share is the top holding company in the so-called Bond and Share holding company system, of which, under the definitions of the Act, all the other petitioners are members. Bond and Share owns voting securities in varying amounts (17.5 to 47 per cent.) of American Gas, American Company, National Company and Electric Company and 7 per cent. of the voting stock of United Company, a subsidiary of Electric Company, but Bond and Share owns no voting securities in any other companies in the system. These holding companies, in turn, own voting securities, sufficient to give them voting control, in utility operating companies and in subsidiary holding companies, most of which subsidiary holding companies are likewise operating companies. This voting control is based in most cases on the ownership of substantially all of the common stock and of more than two-thirds of all voting stock. The principal business of all the holding companies (and the only business of most of them) is to own securities in or obligations of other companies, to use such power as they may derive through such ownership to safeguard their investments, to collect the income therefrom and to distribute such income to their own security holders.

Bond and Share has two wholly-owned subsidiaries which carry out agreements for services of various kinds for the operating companies in the system other than the

subsidiaries of American Gas. American Gas performs similar services for its operating subsidiaries.

The operating companies in the system are variously engaged in the electric and gas public utility business, and in non-utility operations of a local nature. Many of these operating companies confine all their activities entirely within the boundaries of a single state, and neither sell electricity or gas for transmission into another state, nor distribute electricity or gas generated or produced in another state (Findings of Fact 31 and 42, R. 2231, 2235; R. 489, 622). Other operating companies distribute at retail electricity or gas which has been transmitted across state lines or sell gas or electricity for transmission across state lines (*id.*). Some of them also transmit gas or electricity from one state to another for their own account or, in isolated instances, for the account of others (*id.*).* Certain of the subsidiaries in the system, such as the petitioners Spokane United Railways and Spokane Central Heating Company, are not gas or electric utility or holding companies within the meaning of the Act and transact business of a purely local nature (Finding of Fact 9, R. 2220; R. 266-267).

Petitioners against which plaintiff seeks relief admit that they are violating or threatening to violate one or more of the provisions of Section 4(a) of the Act.

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* The interstate transmission or sale of electric energy or gas by either holding or operating company is neither a condition precedent to nor a subject of regulation under the Act. The predominantly local character of the business is indicated by the fact that of approximately $232,000,000 annual electric revenues, only about $5,400,000 is realized from interstate sales as such (Findings, R. 2230-2232).

(d) Action of the District Court.

The District Court held that Sections 4(a)(1), (2), (3) and (4), part of section 4(a)(6), and Section 5 of the Act are separable from the remaining provisions thereof and constitute a workable and valid law to which effect can be given even if the remaining provisions of the Act are unconstitutional. Although it stated in its opinion that enforcing Section 4(a) was tantamount to requiring registration (R. 2179), the District Court further held that none of the petitioners had any standing to contest the validity of the provisions of the Act applicable only to registered holding companies and their subsidiaries.

A decree was entered (R. 2260-2265) enjoining each petitioner against which plaintiff sought relief from violating certain provisions of Section 4(a) of the Act, *i. e.*,

1. From selling or transmitting electric energy or gas in interstate commerce or owning or operating facilities for such interstate transmission;

2. From using the mails or instrumentalities of interstate commerce

(a) to perform service, sales or construction contracts for any public utility or holding company;

(b) to distribute or make any public offering for sale of their own securities or those of any public utility or holding company; or

(c) to acquire or negotiate for the acquisition of any utility assets or securities of any holding company or public utility company;

3. From owning, controlling or holding with power to vote any securities of any subsidiary that does any of the things specified in 1 and 2;

unless such petitioner ceases to be a holding company as defined by the Act or registers under Section 5(a) of said Act. The cross-bill and counterclaim was dismissed.

In reaching this conclusion, the District Court argued (Opinion, R. 2132 *et seq.*) that the activities specified in Section 4(a) of the Act are activities in interstate commerce or activities carried out through the channels of interstate commerce or the mails, over which the Congress has regulatory power; that it is a reasonable exercise of that power to condition the conduct of such activities upon the furnishing of the information required by Section 5(b) (not noting that the information is related to the subsequent regulatory system rather than to the activities described in Section 4(a)); and that Sections 4(a) and 5 may therefore stand alone as a separable regulatory system sufficient to support the requirement of registration. It was not necessary, in the District Court's opinion, to consider in the main case the regulatory system prescribed by the Act or to determine its validity. Decision on the validity of that system under the cross-bill was avoided on the ground that, as the regulatory provisions of the Act applied to registered holding companies and their subsidiaries only, no unregistered holding company or any of its subsidiaries could contest the constitutionality of those provisions.

It is the position of the petitioners (defendants below) that this reasoning is fallacious; that, admitting that some of the activities described in Section 4(a) may constitute interstate commerce, that section does not purport to regulate those activities, but is merely a penalty to coerce registration so that the registrant may be subjected to the regulatory system of the Act; that Section 5(a) is not a regulation capable of supporting 4(a) and is not claimed to

be; that the registration statement required by Section 5(b) standing alone is not regulatory but is purely inquisitorial and not sufficient to sustain the penalty (the prohibition from engaging in interstate commerce or from using the mails or facilities of such commerce) imposed by Section 4(a) to coerce registration.

Section 4(a) applies only to non-registered holding companies and has fulfilled its office when the notification of registration is filed. The registration statement required by Section 5(b) therefore can only be auxiliary to the regulation of registered holding companies as prescribed by the subsequent sections of the Act and not to the activities forbidden by Section 4(a). A reading of Section 5(b) in context with these subsequent regulatory sections (6 to 13) affords clear demonstration that it is auxiliary to them and in no wise to Section 4(a) or to regulation of the activities therein prohibited to non-registered holding companies.

(e) Action of the Circuit Court of Appeals.

The three members of the Circuit Court of Appeals were unanimous in affirming the decree of the District Court (R. 2333). However, they did not unite in an opinion stating the grounds of their action.

Judge Manton filed an opinion that followed closely the opinion of the District Court in its treatment of the problem, proceeding likewise on the theory that the activities specified by Section 4(a), being activities in interstate commerce or activities carried out through the channels of interstate commerce or the mails, were subject to regulation, and that the informatory provisions of Section 5(b) were therefore valid. He further held, as did the District Court, that Sections 4(a) and 5 were separable, citing *Dorchy* v.

Kansas, 264 U. S. 286 (1924), in support of the statement that "Section 32 is a command by Congress that valid fragments must be preserved if the warp and woof are torn away" (Compare *Schechter Corp.* v. *United States,* 295 U. S. 495, 554, 555 (1935)).

Judge Learned Hand filed a concurring memorandum expressing doubt whether Sections 4 and 5 may stand alone, but holding that parts of Sections 6 and 7, relating to control over issuance and sale of securities, and Sections 9 and 10, over their acquisition, are valid (although suggesting that other parts are probably invalid) and constitute "a workable system of controls * * * which Sec. 5 would implement". Thus, he apparently agreed with defendants' position as to the structural relationship of the parts of the Act, and believed it necessary to sustain sufficient of the substantive regulatory system to support the registration requirement enforced by the decree.

Judge Swan merely concurred in the result without assigning any reason.

We shall hereafter point out the conflict between the decision here and that of the Circuit Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit in *Burco, Inc.* v. *Whitworth,* 81 F. (2d) 721 (1936), in which the unanimous court of three circuit judges held the registration requirements inseparable and the Act as a whole invalid as to a holding company clearly within its terms.

It would appear, therefore, that five of the eight judges (four in each circuit) who have passed on the Act are in agreement that Sections 4(a) and 5 are not separable from the regulatory controls of the Act; that two only have held that they are separable, and the opinion of the eighth is undisclosed. The four judges (in the Fourth Circuit) who

have passed on the substance of the Act have held it invalid on the specific case before it.

Specifications of Errors to be Urged.

1. The Circuit Court of Appeals erred in affirming the holding of the District Court that Sections 4(a) and 5 of the Act constitute a constitutional, valid and reasonable regulation of interstate commerce and the mails (Assignments of Errors, 1 to 23; R. 2271-2278).

2. The Circuit Court of Appeals erred in affirming the holding of the District Court that Sections 4(a) and 5 of the Act are separable from the remaining provisions thereof and that the various provisions of said sections are separable from each other (Assignments of Errors, 24 to 33; R. 2278-2282).

3. The Circuit Court of Appeals erred in affirming the District Court in so far as the District Court failed to hold that the substantive regulatory system prescribed by the Act subsequent to the registration provisions is unconstitutional (Assignment of Errors, 34 and 35; R. 2282-2284).

4. The Circuit Court of Appeals erred in affirming the decision of the District Court dismissing the counterclaim and cross-bill (Assignment of Errors, 36 to 51; R. 2284-2291).

5. The Circuit Court of Appeals erred in affirming the District Court in so far as the District Court refused to determine the rights, liabilities and duties under the Act of the operating company petitioners, subsidiaries of the holding company petitioners (Assignment of Errors, 52 to 68; R. 2291-2296).

6. The Circuit Court of Appeals erred in affirming the decision of the District Court in granting an injunction decree (Assignment of Errors, 69 and 70; R. 2297).

Reasons Relied on for the Allowance of the Writ.

1. Issues of great significance and questions of federal law of far-reaching importance to the parties and the public are involved in this case. *Landis* v. *North American Co.*, 299 U. S. 248, 256 (1936). These questions have not been, but should be, settled by this Court. The record in this case has been exhaustively and carefully prepared, with a view to facilitating such settlement. See Attorney General's brief in *Landis* v. *North American Co., supra.* Pending such determination, no attempt has been made by the government to force companies which did not voluntarily register under the Act to comply with it. Many other cases were originally brought in thirteen federal district courts involving the same questions. While these suits have not been pressed pending decision of this case, similar cases may be brought in the District of Columbia unless the questions involved are now determined by the Court. This Court has taken notice of the situation in *Landis* v. *North American Company, supra.*

2. The decision of the court below is in conflict with the decision of the Circuit Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit in *Burco, Inc.* v. *Whitworth,* 81 F. (2d) 721 (C. C. A. 4, 1936), certiorari denied 297 U. S. 724 (1936).

It is noteworthy that neither the District Court nor the Circuit Court of Appeals has attempted to distinguish or even comment upon this decision. The decisions of the courts in the Second and Fourth Circuits are diametrically

opposed in their reasoning. The court below bases its decision sustaining Sections 4(a) and 5 on the power of the Congress to prohibit the use of the instrumentalities of interstate commerce and the mails for evil purposes—prostitution, adulterated foods and drugs, stolen automobiles, lottery tickets and the like. The court in the Fourth Circuit holds, as contended by petitioners here, that the rule laid down by these decisions cannot be extended to permit Congress to close the channels of interstate commerce and the mails to a person unless that person submit to regulation with respect not only to the transaction which he proposes to carry out across state lines but also to regulation of other unrelated transactions; in short that the right to use the mails or the channels of interstate commerce may be conditioned only on compliance with a regulation of their use, and not upon compliance with a regulation of the user unrelated to the use.

(3) The decision of the court below has decided several federal questions in a way probably in conflict with the applicable decisions of this Court, viz.:

(a) The ruling of the District Court approved by Judge Manton that Sections 4(a) and 5 are separable from the substantive regulatory scheme of the Act is, we believe, in conflict with the decisions of this Court in *Williams* v. *Standard Oil Co.*, 278 U. S. 235 (1929); *Lemke* v. *Farmers Grain Co.*, 258 U. S. 50 (1922); *Retirement Board* v. *Alton R. Co.*, 295 U. S. 330 (1935), and *Carter* v. *Carter Coal Co.*, 298 U. S. 238 (1936).

(b) The ruling of the District Court approved by Judge Manton that, regarding Sections 4(a) and 5 as a separable enactment of Congress, the provisions of Section 4(a) may

be enforced against the petitioners is, we submit, in conflict with the decisions of this Court in *Carter* v. *Carter Coal Co.*, 298 U. S. 238 (1936), *United States* v. *Butler*, 297 U. S. 1 (1936), and *United States* v. *Constantine*, 296 U. S. 287 (1935), because Section 4(a) is not a regulation of interstate commerce or the mails but a penalty to coerce compliance with the regulatory provisions of the Act, and Section 5, which requires the furnishing of information by and concerning companies not engaged in interstate commerce and concerning activities of such companies which neither constitute nor directly affect interstate commerce, is not a regulation within the powers of Congress under the Commerce Clause but the attempted exercise of a purely inquisitorial power. *The Employers' Liability Cases*, 207 U. S. 463 (1908); *Smith* v. *Illinois Bell Tel. Co.*, 282 U. S. 133 (1930); *Utah Power & L. Co.* v. *Pfost*, 286 U. S. 165 (1932); *cf. Int. Com. Comm.* v. *Goodrich Transit Co.*, 224 U. S. 194, 216 (1912).

(c) The decision of the Circuit Court of Appeals that Section 4(a) may be enforced against the petitioners is, we believe, in conflict with the decision of this Court in *Hammer* v. *Dagenhart*, 247 U. S. 251 (1918), because Section 4(a) is not and was not intended by Congress to be a regulation of interstate commerce or of the use of the channels of interstate commerce and the mails, its sole purpose and effect being to coerce submission to regulation beyond the powers of the Federal government. Even assuming that Section 4(a) would have been valid as a regulation if standing alone, a statute which permits the avoidance of a regulation or prohibition, constitutional if standing alone, only on compliance with a less onerous but unconstitutional regulation, is invalid. *Frost Trucking Co.*

v. *R. R. Com.*, 271 U. S. 583 (1926); *Western Union Tel. Co.* v. *Foster*, 247 U. S. 105 (1918); *Western Union Tel. Co.* v. *Kansas*, 216 U. S. 1 (1910); *Pullman Co.* v. *Kansas*, 216 U. S. 56 (1910); *cf. United States* v. *Butler*, 297 U. S. 1, 70 (1936). As was said by Mr. Justice Holmes in *Western Union Tel. Co.* v. *Foster, supra*, at page 114,

> "a constitutional power cannot be used by way of condition to attain an unconstitutional result."

(d) The ruling of the District Court approved by the Circuit Court of Appeals enforcing Section 4(a) of the Act against the holding company petitioners is, we believe, in conflict with the decisions of this Court in *United States* v. *Reese et al.*, 92 U. S. 214, 221 (1875); *Trade-Mark Cases*, 100 U. S. 82, 98 (1879); *Baldwin* v. *Franks*, 120 U. S. 678, 685 (1887); *Illinois Central Railroad* v. *McKendree*, 203 U. S. 514, 516, 528 (1906); *The Employers' Liability Cases*, 207 U. S. 463, 489, 501 (1908); *Butts* v. *Merchants Transp'n. Co.*, 230 U. S. 126 (1913), because the Act by its terms covers many companies and transactions to which it could not be constitutionally applied. As was said in *United States* v. *Ju Toy*, 198 U. S. 253, 262 (1905), of statutory provisions no more inclusive than the terms of the statute here in question, the statute

> "must be valid as to all that it embraces, or altogether void. An exception of a class constitutionally exempt cannot be read into those general words merely for the purpose of saving what remains. That has been decided over and over again."

(e) The ruling of the court below enjoining violation of Section 4(a) unless the defendant holding companies reg-

ister or cease to be holding companies, without determination of the validity or scope of the Act in its application to any of the petitioners, is, we believe, in conflict with *Smith* v. *Cahoon*, 283 U. S. 553 (1931).

(f) The ruling of the court below that the petitioners have no standing to secure a determination, on their cross-bill and counterclaim, concerning the validity of the provisions of the Act applicable to registered holding companies is, we believe, in conflict with the decisions of this Court in *Pierce* v. *Society of Sisters*, 268 U. S. 510 (1925), *Euclid* v. *Ambler Co.*, 272 U. S. 365 (1926), *Carter* v. *Carter Coal Co.*, 298 U. S. 238 (1936), *City Bank Co.* v. *Schnader*, 291 U. S. 24 (1934) and *Penna.* v. *West Virginia*, 262 U. S. 553 (1923).

(g) The ruling of the court below that Section 4(a) is valid, and that its violation may be enjoined, raises the serious questions of constitutional law under the Sixth and Eighth Amendments propounded by Mr. Justice Brandeis in his dissenting opinion in *Milwaukee Pub. Co.* v. *Burleson*, 255 U. S. 407 (1921), since Section 4(a) prohibits the exercise of civil rights, not as a regulation, but as a penalty imposed without trial by jury.

WHEREFORE your petitioners respectfully pray that a writ of certiorari be issued out of and under the seal of this Honorable Court directed to the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, commanding that court to certify and to send to this Court for its review and determination, on a day certain to be therein named, a transcript of the record and proceedings herein; and that the order of said Circuit Court of Appeals for the Second

Circuit affirming the decree of the District Court for the Southern District of New York be reversed by this Honorable Court, and that your petitioners have such other and further relief in the premises as to this Honorable Court may seem meet and just, and your petitioners ever pray.

Dated, New York, N. Y., December 13, 1937.

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Of Counsel for Appellants American Gas and Electric Company, Appalachian Electric Power Company, The Ohio Power Company, The Scranton Electric Company and Atlantic City Electric Company.

Appendix.

[PUBLIC—No. 333—74TH CONGRESS]

[S. 2796]

AN ACT

To provide for control and regulation of public-utility holding companies, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Public Utility Act of 1935".

TITLE I—CONTROL OF PUBLIC-UTILITY HOLDING COMPANIES

NECESSITY FOR CONTROL OF HOLDING COMPANIES

SECTION 1. (a) Public-utility holding companies and their subsidiary companies are affected with a national public interest in that, among other things, (1) their securities are widely marketed and distributed by means of the mails and instrumentalities of interstate commerce and are sold to a large number of investors in different States; (2) their service, sales, construction, and other contracts and arrangements are often made and performed by means of the mails and instrumentalities of interstate commerce; (3) their subsidiary public-utility companies often sell and transport gas and electric energy by the use of means and instrumentalities of interstate commerce; (4) their practices in respect of and control over subsidiary companies often materially affect the interstate commerce in which those companies engage; (5) their activities extending over many States are not susceptible of effective control by any State and make difficult, if not impossible, effective State regulation of public-utility companies.

(b) Upon the basis of facts disclosed by the reports of the Federal Trade Commission made pursuant to S. Res. 83 (Seventieth Congress, first session), the reports of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, House of Representatives, made pursuant to H. Res. 59 (Seventy-second Congress, first session) and H. J. Res. 572 (Seventy-second Congress, second session) and otherwise disclosed and ascertained, it is hereby declared that the national public interest, the interest of investors in the securities of holding companies and their subsidiary companies and affiliates, and the interest of consumers of electric energy and natural and manufactured gas, are or may be adversely affected—

(1) when such investors cannot obtain the information necessary to appraise the financial position or earning power of the issuers, because of the absence of uniform standard accounts; when such securities are issued without the approval or consent of the States having jurisdiction over subsidiary public-utility companies; when such securities are issued upon the basis of fictitious or unsound asset values having no fair relation to the sums invested in or the earning capacity of the properties and upon the basis of paper profits from intercompany transactions, or in anticipation of excessive revenues from subsidiary public-utility companies; when such securities are issued by a subsidiary public-utility company under circumstances which subject such company to the burden of supporting an overcapitalized structure and tend to prevent voluntary rate reductions;

(2) when subsidiary public-utility companies are subjected to excessive charges for services, construction work, equipment, and materials, or enter into transactions in which evils result from an absence of arm's-length bargaining or from restraint of free and independent competition; when service, management, construction, and other contracts involve the allocation of charges among subsidiary public-utility companies in different States so as to present problems of regulation which cannot be dealt with effectively by the States;

(3) when control of subsidiary public-utility companies affects the accounting practices and rate, divi-

dend, and other policies of such companies so as to complicate and obstruct State regulation of such companies, or when control of such companies is exerted through disproportionately small investment;

(4) when the growth and extension of holding companies bears no relation to economy of management and operation or the integration and coordination of related operating properties; or

(5) when in any other respect there is lack of economy of management and operation of public-utility companies or lack of efficiency and adequacy of service rendered by such companies, or lack of effective public regulation, or lack of economies in the raising of capital.

(c) When abuses of the character above enumerated become persistent and wide-spread the holding company becomes an agency which, unless regulated, is injurious to investors, consumers, and the general public; and it is hereby declared to be the policy of this title, in accordance with which policy all the provisions of this title shall be interpreted, to meet the problems and eliminate the evils as enumerated in this section, connected with public-utility holding companies which are engaged in interstate commerce or in activities which directly affect or burden interstate commerce; and for the purpose of effectuating such policy to compel the simplification of public-utility holding-company systems and the elimination therefrom of properties detrimental to the proper functioning of such systems, and to provide as soon as practicable for the elimination of public-utility holding companies except as otherwise expressly provided in this title.

DEFINITIONS

SEC. 2. (a) When used in this title, unless the context otherwise requires—

(1) "Person" means an individual, or company.

(2) "Company" means a corporation, a partnership, an association, a joint-stock company, a business trust, or an organized group of persons, whether incorporated or not; or any receiver, trustee, or other liquidating agent of any of the foregoing in his capacity as such.

(3) "Electric utility company" means any company which owns or operates facilities used for the generation, transmission, or distribution of electric energy for sale, other than sale to tenants or employees of the company operating such facilities for their own use and not for resale. The Commission, upon application, shall by order declare a company operating any such facilities not to be an electric utility company if the Commission finds that (A) such company is primarily engaged in one or more businesses other than the business of an electric utility company, and by reason of the small amount of electric energy sold by such company it is not necessary in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers that such company be considered an electric utility company for the purposes of this title, or (B) such company is one operating within a single State, and substantially all of its outstanding securities are owned directly or indirectly by another company to which such operating company sells or furnishes electric energy which it generates; such other company uses and does not resell such electric energy, is engaged primarily in manufacturing (other than the manufacturing of electric energy or gas) and is not controlled by any other company; and by reason of the small amount of electric energy sold or furnished by such operating company to other persons it is not necessary in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers that it be considered an electric utility company for the purposes of this title. The filing of an application hereunder in good faith shall exempt such company (and the owner of the facilities operated by such company) from the application of this paragraph until the Commission has acted upon such application. As a condition to the entry of any such order, and as a part thereof, the Commission may require application to be made periodically for a renewal of such order, and may require the filing of such periodic or special reports regarding the business of the company as the Commission may find necessary or appropriate to insure that such company continues to be entitled to such exemption during the period for which such order is effective. The Commission, upon its own motion or upon application, shall revoke such order whenever it finds that the conditions specified in clause (A) or (B) are not satisfied in the case of such company. Any action of the Commission under the preceding sentence

shall be by order. Application under this paragraph may be made by the company in respect of which the order is to be issued or by the owner of the facilities operated by such company. Any order issued under this paragraph shall apply equally to such company and such owner. The Commission may by rules or regulations conditionally or unconditionally provide that any specified class or classes of companies which it determines to satisfy the conditions specified in clause (A) or (B), and the owners of the facilities operated by such companies, shall not be deemed electric utility companies within the meaning of this paragraph.

(4) "Gas utility company" means any company which owns or operates facilities used for the distribution at retail (other than distribution only in enclosed portable containers, or distribution to tenants or employees of the company operating such facilities for their own use and not for resale) of natural or manufactured gas for heat, light, or power. The Commission, upon application, shall by order declare a company operating any such facilities not to be a gas utility company if the Commission finds that (A) such company is primarily engaged in one or more businesses other than the business of a gas utility company, and (B) by reason of the small amount of natural or manufactured gas distributed at retail by such company it is not necessary in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers that such company be considered a gas utility company for the purposes of this title. The filing of an application hereunder in good faith shall exempt such company (and the owner of the facilities operated by such company) from the application of this paragraph until the Commission has acted upon such application. As a condition to the entry of any such order, and as a part thereof, the Commission may require application to be made periodically for a renewal of such order, and may require the filing of such periodic or special reports regarding the business of the company as the Commission may find necessary or appropriate to insure that such company continues to be entitled to such exemption during the period for which such order is effective. The Commission, upon its own motion or upon application, shall revoke such order whenever it finds that the conditions specified in clauses (A) and (B) are not satisfied in the case of such company. Any action of the Commission under the preceding sen-

tence shall be by order. Application under this paragraph may be made by the company in respect of which the order is to be issued or by the owner of the facilities operated by such company. Any order issued under this paragraph shall apply equally to such company and such owner. The Commission may by rules or regulations conditionally or unconditionally provide that any specified class or classes of companies which it determines to satisfy the conditions specified in clauses (A) and (B), and the owners of the facilities operated by such companies, shall not be deemed gas utility companies within the meaning of this paragraph.

(5) "Public-utility company" means an electric utility company or a gas utility company.

(6) "Commission" means the Securities and Exchange Commission.

(7) "Holding company" means—

(A) any company which directly or indirectly owns, controls, or holds with power to vote, 10 per centum or more of the outstanding voting securities of a public-utility company or of a company which is a holding company by virtue of this clause or clause (B), unless the Commission, as hereinafter provided, by order declares such company not to be a holding company; and

(B) any person which the Commission determines, after notice and opportunity for hearing, directly or indirectly to exercise (either alone or pursuant to an arrangement or understanding with one or more other persons) such a controlling influence over the management or policies of any public-utility or holding company as to make it necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers that such person be subject to the obligations, duties, and liabilities imposed in this title upon holding companies.

The Commission, upon application, shall by order declare that a company is not a holding company under clause (A) if the Commission finds that the applicant (i) does not, either alone or pursuant to an arrangement or understanding with one or more other persons, directly or indirectly control a public-utility or holding company either through

one or more intermediary persons or by any means or device whatsoever, (ii) is not an intermediary company through which such control is exercised, and (iii) does not, directly or indirectly, exercise (either alone or pursuant to an arrangement or understanding with one or more other persons) such a controlling influence over the management or policies of any public-utility or holding company as to make it necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers that the applicant be subject to the obligations, duties, and liabilities imposed in this title upon holding companies. The filing of an application hereunder in good faith by a company other than a registered holding company shall exempt the applicant from any obligation, duty, or liability imposed in this title upon the applicant as a holding company, until the Commission has acted upon such application. Within a reasonable time after the receipt of any application hereunder, the Commission shall enter an order granting, or, after notice and opportunity for hearing, denying or otherwise disposing of, such application. As a condition to the entry of any order granting such application and as a part of any such order, the Commission may require the applicant to apply periodically for a renewal of such order and to do or refrain from doing such acts or things, in respect of exercise of voting rights, control over proxies, designation of officers and directors, existence of interlocking officers, directors and other relationships, and submission of periodic or special reports regarding affiliations or intercorporate relationships of the applicant, as the Commission may find necessary or appropriate to ensure that in the case of the applicant the conditions specified in clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) are satisfied during the period for which such order is effective. The Commission, upon its own motion or upon application of the company affected, shall revoke the order declaring such company not to be a holding company whenever in its judgment any condition specified in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) is not satisfied in the case of such company, or modify the terms of such order whenever in its judgment such modification is necessary to ensure that in the case of such company the conditions specified in clause (i), (ii), and (iii) are satisfied during the period for which such order is effective. Any action of the Commission under the preceding sentence shall be by order.

(8) "Subsidiary company" of a specified holding company means—

(A) any company 10 per centum or more of the outstanding voting securities of which are directly or indirectly owned, controlled, or held with power to vote, by such holding company (or by a company that is a subsidiary company of such holding company by virtue of this clause or clause (B)), unless the Commission, as hereinafter provided, by order declares such company not to be a subsidiary company of such holding company; and

(B) any person the management or policies of which the Commission, after notice and opportunity for hearing, determines to be subject to a controlling influence, directly or indirectly, by such holding company (either alone or pursuant to an arrangement or understanding with one or more other persons) so as to make it necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers that such person be subject to the obligations, duties, and liabilities imposed in this title upon subsidiary companies of holding companies.

The Commission, upon application, shall by order declare that a company is not a subsidiary company of a specified holding company under clause (A) if the Commission finds that (i) the applicant is not controlled, directly or indirectly, by such holding company (either alone or pursuant to an arrangement or understanding with one or more other persons) either through one or more intermediary persons or by any means or device whatsoever, (ii) the applicant is not an intermediary company through which such control of another company is exercised, and (iii) the management or policies of the applicant are not subject to a controlling influence, directly or indirectly, by such holding company (either alone or pursuant to an arrangement or understanding with one or more other persons) so as to make it necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers that the applicant be subject to the obligations, duties, and liabilities imposed in this title upon subsidiary companies of holding companies. The filing of an application hereunder in good faith shall exempt the applicant from any obligation, duty, or liability

imposed in this title upon the applicant as a subsidiary company of such specified holding company until the Commission has acted upon such application. Within a reasonable time after the receipt of any application hereunder, the Commission shall enter an order granting, or, after notice and opportunity for hearing, denying or otherwise disposing of, such application. As a condition to the entry of, and as a part of, any order granting such application, the Commission may require the applicant to apply periodically for a renewal of such order and to file such periodic or special reports regarding the affiliations or intercorporate relationships of the applicant as the Commission may find necessary or appropriate to enable it to determine whether in the case of the applicant the conditions specified in clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) are satisfied during the period for which such order is effective. The Commission, upon its own motion or upon application, shall revoke the order declaring such company not to be a subsidiary company whenever in its judgment any conditions specified in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) is not satisfied in the case of such company, or modify the terms of such order whenever in its judgment such modification is necessary to ensure that in the case of such company the conditions specified in clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) are satisfied during the period for which such order is effective. Any action of the Commission under the preceding sentence shall be by order. Any application under this paragraph may be made by the holding company or the company in respect of which the order is to be entered, but as used in this paragraph the term "applicant" means only the company in respect of which the order is to be entered.

(9) "Holding-company system" means any holding company, together with all its subsidiary companies, and all mutual service companies (as defined in paragraph (13) of this subsection) of which such holding company or any subsidiary company thereof is a member company (as defined in paragraph (14) of this subsection).

(10) "Associate company" of a company means any company in the same holding-company system with such company.

(11) "Affiliate" of a specified company means—

(A) any person that directly or indirectly owns, controls, or holds with power to vote, 5 per centum or more of the outstanding voting securities of such specified company;

(B) any company 5 per centum or more of whose outstanding voting securities are owned, controlled, or held with power to vote, directly or indirectly, by such specified company;

(C) any individual who is an officer or director of such specified company, or of any company which is an affiliate thereof under clause (A) of this paragraph; and

(D) any person or class of persons that the Commission determines after appropriate notice and opportunity for hearing, to stand in such relation to such specified company that there is liable to be such an absence of arm's-length bargaining in transactions between them as to make it necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers that such person be subject to the obligations, duties, and liabilities imposed in this title upon affiliates of a company.

(12) "Registered holding company" means a person whose registration is in effect under section 5.

(13) "Mutual service company" means a company approved as a mutual service company under section 13.

(14) "Member company" means a company which is a member of an association or group of companies mutually served by a mutual service company.

(15) "Director" means any director of a corporation or any individual who performs similar functions in respect of any company.

(16) "Security" means any note, draft, stock, treasury stock, bond, debenture, certificate of interest or participation in any profit-sharing agreement or in any oil, gas, other mineral royalty or lease, any collateral-trust certificate, preorganization certificate or subscription, transferable share, investment contract, voting-trust certificate, certificate of deposit for a security, receiver's or trustee's

certificate, or, in general, any instrument commonly known as a "security"; or any certificate of interest or participation in, temporary or interim certificate for, receipt for, guaranty of, assumption of liability on, or warrant or right to subscribe to or purchase, any of the foregoing.

(17) "Voting security" means any security presently entitling the owner or holder thereof to vote in the direction or management of the affairs of a company, or any security issued under or pursuant to any trust, agreement, or arrangement whereby a trustee or trustees or agent or agents for the owner or holder of such security are presently entitled to vote in the direction or management of the affairs of a company; and a specified per centum of the outstanding voting securities of a company means such amount of the outstanding voting securities of such company as entitles the holder or holders thereof to cast said specified per centum of the aggregate votes which the holders of all the outstanding voting securities of such company are entitled to cast in the direction or management of the affairs of such company.

(18) "Utility assets" means the facilities, in place, of any electric utility company or gas utility company for the production, transmission, transportation, or distribution of electric energy or natural or manufactured gas.

(19) "Service contract" means any contract, agreement, or understanding whereby a person undertakes to sell or furnish, for a charge, any managerial, financial, legal, engineering, purchasing, marketing, auditing, statistical, advertising, publicity, tax, research, or any other service, information, or data.

(20) "Sales contract" means any contract, agreement, or understanding whereby a person undertakes to sell, lease, or furnish, for a charge, any goods, equipment, materials, supplies, appliances, or similar property. As used in this paragraph the term "property" does not include electric energy or natural or manufactured gas.

(21) "Construction contract" means any contract, agreement, or understanding for the construction, extension, improvement, maintenance, or repair of the facilities or any part thereof of a company for a charge.

(22) "Buy", "acquire", "acquisition", or "purchase" includes any purchase, acquisition by lease, exchange, merger, consolidation, or other acquisition.

(23) "Sale" or "sell" includes any sale, disposition by lease, exchange or pledge, or other disposition.

(24) "State" means any State of the United States or the District of Columbia.

(25) "United States", when used in a geographical sense, means the States.

(26) "State commission" means any commission, board, agency, or officer, by whatever name designated, of a State, municipality, or other political subdivision of a State which under the law of such State has jurisdiction to regulate public-utility companies.

(27) "State securities commission" means any commission, board, agency, or officer, by whatever name designated, other than a State commission as defined in paragraph (26) of this subsection, which under the law of a State has jurisdiction to regulate, approve, or control the issue or sale of a security by a company.

(28) "Interstate commerce" means trade, commerce, transportation, transmission, or communication among the several States or between any State and any place outside thereof.

(29) "Integrated public-utility system" means—

(A) As applied to electric utility companies, a system consisting of one or more units of generating plants and/or transmission lines and/or distributing facilities, whose utility assets, whether owned by one or more electric utility companies, are physically interconnected or capable of physical interconnection and which under normal conditions may be economically operated as a single interconnected and coordinated system confined in its operations to a single area or region, in one or more States, not so large as to impair (considering the state of the art and the area or region affected) the advantages of localized management, efficient operation, and the effectiveness of regulation; and

(B) As applied to gas utility companies, a system consisting of one or more gas utility companies which are so located and related that substantial economies may be effectuated by being operated as a single coordinated system confined in its operations to a single area or region, in one or more States, not so large as to impair (considering the state of the art and the area or region affected) the advantages of localized management, efficient operation, and the effectiveness of regulation: *Provided,* That gas utility companies deriving natural gas from a common source of supply may be deemed to be included in a single area or region.

(b) No person shall be deemed to be a holding company under clause (B) of paragraph (7) of subsection (a), or a subsidiary company under clause (B) of paragraph (8) of such subsection, or an affiliate under clause (D) of paragraph (11) of such subsection, unless the Commission, after appropriate notice and opportunity for hearing, has issued an order declaring such person to be a holding company, a subsidiary company, or an affiliate, or declaring a class of which such person is a member to be affiliates. Such an order shall not become effective for at least thirty days after the mailing of a copy thereof to the person thereby declared to be a holding company, subsidiary company, or affiliate; or, in the case of determination of affiliates by classes, until at least thirty days after appropriate publication thereof in such manner as the Commission shall determine. Whenever the Commission, on its own motion or upon application by the person declared to be a holding company, subsidiary company, or affiliate, finds that the circumstances which gave rise to the issuance of any such order no longer exist, the Commission shall by order revoke such order.

(c) No provision in this title shall apply to, or be deemed to include, the United States, a State, or any political subdivision of a State, or any agency, authority, or instrumentality of any one or more of the foregoing, or any corporation which is wholly owned directly or indirectly by any one or more of the foregoing, or any officer, agent, or employee of any of the foregoing acting as such in the course of his official duty, unless such provision makes specific reference thereto.

POWER TO MAKE PARTICULAR EXEMPTIONS REGARDING HOLDING COMPANIES, SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES, AND AFFILIATES

SEC. 3. (a) The Commission, by rules and regulations upon its own motion, or by order upon application, shall exempt any holding company, and every subsidiary company thereof as such, from any provision or provisions of this title, unless and except insofar as it finds the exemption detrimental to the public interest or the interest of investors or consumers, if—

(1) such holding company, and every subsidiary company thereof which is a public-utility company from which such holding company derives, directly or indirectly, any material part of its income, are predominantly intrastate in character and carry on their business substantially in a single State in which such holding company and every such subsidiary company thereof are organized;

(2) such holding company is predominantly a public-utility company whose operations as such do not extend beyond the State in which it is organized and States contiguous thereto;

(3) such holding company is only incidentally a holding company, being primarily engaged or interested in one or more businesses other than the business of a public-utility company and (A) not deriving, directly or indirectly, any material part of its income from any one or more subsidiary companies, the principal business of which is that of a public-utility company, or (B) deriving a material part of its income from any one or more such subsidiary companies, if substantially all the outstanding securities of such companies are owned, directly or indirectly, by such holding company;

(4) such holding company is temporarily a holding company solely by reason of the acquisition of securities for purposes of liquidation or distribution in connection with a bona fide debt previously contracted or in connection with a bona fide arrangement for the underwriting or distribution of securities; or

(5) such holding company is not, and derives no material part of its income, directly or indirectly, from

any one or more subsidiary companies which are, a company or companies the principal business of which within the United States is that of a public-utility company.

(b) The Commission, by rules and regulations upon its own motion, or by order upon application, shall exempt any subsidiary company, as such, of a holding company from any provision or provisions of this title, the application of which to such subsidiary company the Commission finds is not necessary in the public interest or for the protection of investors, if such subsidiary company derives no material part of its income, directly or indirectly, from sources within the United States, and neither it nor any of its subsidiary companies is a public-utility company operating in the United States.

(c) Within a reasonable time after the receipt of an application for exemption under subsection (a) or (b), the Commission shall enter an order granting, or, after notice and opportunity for hearing, denying or otherwise disposing of such application. The filing of an application in good faith under subsection (a) by a person other than a registered holding company shall exempt the applicant from any obligation, duty, or liability imposed in this title upon the applicant as a holding company until the Commission has acted upon such application. The filing of an application in good faith under subsection (b) shall exempt the applicant from any obligation, duty, or liability imposed in this title upon the applicant as a subsidiary company until the Commission has acted upon such application. Whenever the Commission, on its own motion, or upon application by the holding company or any subsidiary company thereof exempted by any order issued under subsection (a), or by the subsidiary company exempted by any order issued under subsection (b), finds that the circumstances which gave rise to the issuance of such order no longer exist, the Commission shall by order revoke such order.

(d) The Commission may, by rules and regulations, conditionally or unconditionally exempt any specified class or classes of persons from the obligations, duties, or liabilities imposed upon such persons as subsidiary companies or affiliates under any provision or provisions of this title, and may provide within the extent of any such exemption that

such specified class or classes of persons shall not be deemed subsidiary companies or affiliates within the meaning of any such provision or provisions, if and to the extent that it deems the exemption necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers and not contrary to the purposes of this title.

TRANSACTIONS BY UNREGISTERED HOLDING COMPANIES

SEC. 4. (a) After December 1, 1935, unless a holding company is registered under section 5, it shall be unlawful for such holding company, directly or indirectly—

(1) to sell, transport, transmit, or distribute, or own or operate any utility assets for the transportation, transmission, or distribution of, natural or manufactured gas or electric energy in interstate commerce;

(2) by use of the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, to negotiate, enter into, or take any step in the performance of, any service, sales, or construction contract undertaking to perform services or construction work for, or sell goods to, any public-utility company or holding company;

(3) to distribute or make any public offering for sale or exchange of any security of such holding company, any subsidiary company or affiliate of such holding company, any public-utility company, or any holding company, by use of the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, or to sell any such security having reason to believe that such security, by use of the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, will be distributed or made the subject of a public offering;

(4) by use of the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, to acquire or negotiate for the acquisition of any security or utility assets of any subsidiary company or affiliate of such holding company, any public-utility company, or any holding company;

(5) to engage in any business in interstate commerce; or

(6) to own, control, or hold with power to vote, any security of any subsidiary company thereof that does any of the acts enumerated in paragraphs (1) to (5), inclusive, of this subsection.

(b) Every holding company which has outstanding any security any of which, by use of the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, has been distributed or made the subject of a public offering subsequent to January 1, 1925, and any of which security is owned or held on October 1, 1935 (or, if such company is not a holding company on that date, on the date such company becomes a holding company) by persons not resident in the State in which such holding company is organized, shall register under section 5 on or before December 1, 1935 or the thirtieth day after such company becomes a holding company, whichever date is later.

REGISTRATION OF HOLDING COMPANIES

SEC. 5. (a) On or at any time after October 1, 1935, any holding company or any person purposing to become a holding company may register by filing with the Commission a notification of registration, in such form as the Commission may by rules and regulations prescribe as necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers. A person shall be deemed to be registered upon receipt by the Commission of such notification of registration.

(b) It shall be the duty of every registered holding company to file with the Commission, within such reasonable time after registration as the Commission shall fix by rules and regulations or order, a registration statement in such form as the Commission shall by rules and regulations or order prescribe as necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers. Such registration statement shall include—

(1) such copies of the charter or articles of incorporation, partnership, or agreement, with all amendments thereto, and the bylaws, trust indentures, mortgages, underwriting arrangements, voting-trust agreements, and similar documents, by whatever name known, of or relating to the registrant or any of its

associate companies as the Commission may by rules and regulations or order prescribe as necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers;

(2) such information in such form and in such detail relating to, and copies of such documents of or relating to, the registrant and its associate companies as the Commission may by rules and regulations or order prescribe as necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers in respect of—

(A) the organization and financial structure of such companies and the nature of their business;

(B) the terms, position, rights, and privileges of the different classes of their securities outstanding;

(C) the terms and underwriting arrangements under which their securities, during not more than the five preceding years, have been offered to the public or otherwise disposed of and the relations of underwriters to, and their interest in, such companies;

(D) the directors and officers of such companies, their remuneration, their interest in the securities of, their material contracts with, and their borrowings from, any of such companies;

(E) bonus and profit-sharing arrangements;

(F) material contracts, not made in the ordinary course of business, and service, sales, and construction contracts;

(G) options in respect of securities;

(H) balance sheets for not more than the five preceding fiscal years, certified, if required by the rules and regulations of the Commission, by an independent public accountant;

(I) profit and loss statements for not more than the five preceding fiscal years, certified, if required by the rules and regulations of the Commission, by an independent public accountant;

(3) such further information or documents regarding the registrant or its associate companies or the relations between them as the Commission may by rules and regulations or order prescribe as necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers.

(c) The Commission by such rules and regulations or order as it deems necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers, may permit a registrant to file a preliminary registration statement without complying with the provisions of subsection (b); but every registrant shall file a complete registration statement with the Commission within such reasonable period of time as the Commission shall fix by rules and regulations or order, but not later than one year after the date of registration.

(d) Whenever the Commission, upon application, finds that a registered holding company has ceased to be a holding company, it shall so declare by order and upon the taking effect of such order the registration of such company shall, upon such terms and conditions as the Commission finds and in such order prescribes as necessary for the protection of investors, cease to be in effect. The denial of any such application by the Commission shall be by order.

UNLAWFUL SECURITY TRANSACTIONS BY REGISTERED HOLDING AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES

SEC. 6. (a) Except in accordance with a declaration effective under section 7 and with the order under such section permitting such declaration to become effective, it shall be unlawful for any registered holding company or subsidiary company thereof, by use of the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, or otherwise, directly or indirectly (1) to issue or sell any security of such company; or (2) to exercise any privilege or right to alter the priorities, preferences, voting power, or other rights of the holders of an outstanding security of such company.

(b) The provisions of subsection (a) shall not apply to the issue, renewal, or guaranty by a registered holding company or subsidiary company thereof of a note or draft (including the pledge of any security as collateral therefor)

if such note or draft (1) is not part of a public offering, (2) matures or is renewed for not more than nine months, exclusive of days of grace, after the date of such issue, renewal, or guaranty thereof, and (3) aggregates (together with all other then outstanding notes and drafts of a maturity of nine months or less, exclusive of days of grace, as to which such company is primarily or secondarily liable) not more than 5 per centum of the principal amount and par value of the other securities of such company then outstanding, or such greater per centum thereof as the Commission upon application may by order authorize as necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers. In the case of securities having no principal amount or no par value, the value for the purposes of this subsection shall be the fair market value as of the date of issue. The Commission by rules and regulations or order, subject to such terms and conditions as it deems appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers, shall exempt from the provisions of subsection (a) the issue or sale of any security by any subsidiary company of a registered holding company, if the issue and sale of such security are solely for the purpose of financing the business of such subsidiary company and have been expressly authorized by the State commission of the State in which such subsidiary company is organized and doing business, or if the issue and sale of such security are solely for the purpose of financing the business of such subsidiary company when such subsidiary company is not a holding company, a public-utility company, an investment company, or a fiscal or financing agency of a holding company, a public utility company, or an investment company. The provisions of subsection (a) shall not apply to the issue, by a registered holding company or subsidiary company thereof, of a security issued pursuant to the terms of any security outstanding on January 1, 1935, giving the holder of such outstanding security the right to convert such outstanding security into another security of the same issuer or of another person, or giving the right to subscribe to another security of the same issuer or another issuer. Within ten days after any issue, sale, renewal, or guaranty exempted from the application of subsection (a) by or under authority of this subsection, such holding company or subsidiary company thereof shall file with the Commission a certificate of notification in such

form and setting forth such of the information required in a declaration under section 7 as the Commission may by rules and regulations or order prescribe as necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers.

(c) It shall be unlawful, by use of the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, or otherwise, for any registered holding company or any subsidiary company thereof, directly or indirectly,—

(1) to sell or offer for sale or to cause to be sold or offered for sale, from house to house, any security of such holding company; or

(2) to cause any officer or employee of any subsidiary company of such holding company to sell or cause to be sold any security of such holding company.

As used in this subsection the term "house" shall not include an office used for business purposes.

DECLARATIONS BY REGISTERED HOLDING AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES IN RESPECT OF SECURITY TRANSACTIONS

SEC. 7. (a) A registered holding company or subsidiary company thereof may file a declaration with the Commission, regarding any of the acts enumerated in subsection (a) of section 6, in such form as the Commission may by rules and regulations prescribe as necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers. Such declaration shall include—

(1) such of the information and documents which are required to be filed in order to register a security under section 7 of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, as the Commission may by rules and regulations or order prescribe as necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers; and

(2) such additional information, in such form and detail, and such documents regarding the declarant or any associate company thereof, the particular security and compliance with such State laws as may apply to the act in question as the Commission may by rules and

regulations or order prescribe as necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers.

(b) A declaration filed under this section shall become effective within such reasonable period of time after the filing thereof as the Commission shall fix by rules and regulations or order, unless the Commission prior to the expiration of such period shall have issued an order to the declarant to show cause why such declaration should become effective. Within a reasonable time after an opportunity for hearing upon an order to show cause under this subsection, unless the declarant shall withdraw its declaration, the Commission shall enter an order either permitting such declaration to become effective as filed or amended, or refusing to permit such declaration to become effective. Amendments to a declaration may be made upon such terms and conditions as the Commission may prescribe.

(c) The Commission shall not permit a declaration regarding the issue or sale of a security to become effective unless it finds that—

(1) such security is (A) a common stock having a par value and being without preference as to dividends or distribution over, and having at least equal voting rights with, any outstanding security of the declarant; (B) a bond (i) secured by a first lien on physical property of the declarant, or (ii) secured by an obligation of a subsidiary company of the declarant secured by a first lien on physical property of such subsidiary company, or (iii) secured by any other assets of the type and character which the Commission by rules and regulations or order may prescribe as appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors; (C) a guaranty of, or assumption of liability on, a security of another company; or (D) a receiver's or trustee's certificate duly authorized by the appropriate court or courts; or

(2) such security is to be issued or sold solely (A) for the purpose of refunding, extending, exchanging, or discharging an outstanding security of the declarant and/or a predecessor company thereof or for the purpose of effecting a merger, consolidation, or other re-

organization; (B) for the purpose of financing the business of the declarant as a public-utility company; (C) for the purpose of financing the business of the declarant, when the declarant is neither a holding company nor a public-utility company; and/or (D) for necessary and urgent corporate purposes of the declarant where the requirements of the provisions of paragraph (1) would impose an unreasonable financial burden upon the declarant and are not necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers; or

(3) such security is one the issuance of which was authorized by the company prior to January 1, 1935, and which the Commission by rules and regulations or order authorizes as necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers.

(d) If the requirements of subsections (c) and (g) are satisfied, the Commission shall permit a declaration regarding the issue or sale of a security to become effective unless the Commission finds that—

(1) the security is not reasonably adapted to the security structure of the declarant and other companies in the same holding-company system;

(2) the security is not reasonably adapted to the earning power of the declarant;

(3) financing by the issue and sale of the particular security is not necessary or appropriate to the economical and efficient operation of a business in which the applicant lawfully is engaged or has an interest;

(4) the fees, commissions, or other remuneration, to whomsoever paid, directly or indirectly, in connection with the issue, sale, or distribution of the security are not reasonable;

(5) in the case of a security that is a guaranty of, or assumption of liability on, a security of another company, the circumstances are such as to constitute the making of such guaranty or the assumption of such liability an improper risk for the declarant; or

(6) the terms and conditions of the issue or sale of the security are detrimental to the public interest or the interest of investors or consumers.

(e) If the requirements of subsection (g) are satisfied, the Commission shall permit a declaration to become effective regarding the exercise of a privilege or right to alter the priorities, preferences, voting power, or other rights of the holders of an outstanding security unless the Commission finds that such exercise of such privilege or right will result in an unfair or inequitable distribution of voting power among holders of the securities of the declarant or is otherwise detrimental to the public interest or the interest of investors or consumers.

(f) Any order permitting a declaration to become effective may contain such terms and conditions as the Commission finds necessary to assure compliance with the conditions specified in this section.

(g) If a State commission or State securities commission, having jurisdiction over any of the acts enumerated in subsection (a) of section 6, shall inform the Commission, upon request by the Commission for an opinion or otherwise, that State laws applicable to the act in question have not been complied with, the Commission shall not permit a declaration regarding the act in question to become effective until and unless the Commission is satisfied that such compliance has been effected.

ACQUIRING INTEREST IN ELECTRIC AND GAS UTILITY COMPANIES SERVING SAME TERRITORY

SEC. 8. Whenever a State law prohibits, or requires approval or authorization of, the ownership or operation by a single company of the utility assets of an electric utility company and a gas utility company serving substantially the same territory, it shall be unlawful for a registered holding company, or any subsidiary company thereof, by use of the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, or otherwise,—

(1) to take any step, without the express approval of the State commission of such State, which results in its having a direct or indirect interest in an electric

utility company and a gas utility company serving substantially the same territory; or

(2) if it already has any such interest, to acquire, without the express approval of the State commission, any direct or indirect interest in an electric utility company or gas utility company serving substantially the same territory as that served by such companies in which it already has an interest.

ACQUISITION OF SECURITIES AND UTILITY ASSETS AND OTHER INTERESTS

SEC. 9. (a) Unless the acquisition has been approved by the Commission under section 10, it shall be unlawful—

(1) for any registered holding company or any subsidiary company thereof, by use of the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, or otherwise, to acquire, directly or indirectly, any securities or utility assets or any other interest in any business;

(2) for any person, by use of the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, to acquire, directly or indirectly, any security of any public-utility company, if such person is an affiliate, under clause (A) of paragraph (11) of subsection (a) of section 2, of such company and of any other public utility or holding company, or will by virtue of such acquisition become such an affiliate.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to—

(1) the acquisition by a public-utility company of utility assets the acquisition of which has been expressly authorized by a State commission; or

(2) the acquisition by a public-utility company of securities of a subsidiary public-utility company thereof, provided that both such public-utility companies and all other public-utility companies in the same holding company system are organized in the same State, that the business of each such company in such system is substantially confined to such State, and that the acquisition of such securities has been expressly authorized by the State commission of such State.

(c) Subsection (a) shall not apply to the acquisition by a registered holding company, or a subsidiary company thereof, of—

(1) securities of, or securities the principal or interest of which is guaranteed by, the United States, a State, or political subdivision of a State, or any agency, authority, or instrumentality of any one or more of the foregoing, or any corporation which is wholly owned, directly or indirectly, by any one or more of the foregoing;

(2) such other readily marketable securities, within the limitation of such amounts, as the Commission may by rules and regulations prescribe as appropriate for investment of current funds and as not detrimental to the public interest or the interest of investors or consumers; or

(3) such commercial paper and other securities, within such limitations, as the Commission may by rules and regulations or order prescribe as appropriate in the ordinary course of business of a registered holding company or subsidiary company thereof and as not detrimental to the public interest or the interest of investors or consumers.

APPROVAL OF ACQUISITION OF SECURITIES AND UTILITY ASSETS AND OTHER INTERESTS

SEC. 10. (a) A person may apply for approval of the acquisition of securities or utility assets, or of any other interest in any business, by filing an application in such form as the Commission may by rules and regulations prescribe as necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors and consumers. Such application shall include—

(1) in the case of the acquisition of securities, such information and copies of such documents as the Commission may by rules and regulations or order prescribe as necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers in respect of—

(A) the security to be acquired, the consideration to be paid therefor, and compliance with such State

laws as may apply in respect of the issue, sale, or acquisition thereof,

(B) the outstanding securities of the company whose security is to be acquired, the terms, position, rights, and privileges of each class and the options in respect of any such securities,

(C) the names of all security holders of record (or otherwise known to the applicant) owning, holding, or controlling 1 per centum or more of any class of security of such company, the officers and directors of such company, and their remuneration, security holdings in, material contracts with, and borrowings from such company and the offices or directorships held, and securities owned, held, or controlled, by them in other companies.

(D) the bonus, profit-sharing and voting-trust agreements, underwriting arrangements, trust indentures, mortgages, and similar documents, by whatever name known, of or relating to such company,

(E) the material contracts, not made in the ordinary course of business, and the service, sales, and construction contracts of such company,

(F) the securities owned, held, or controlled directly or indirectly, by such company,

(G) balance sheets and profit and loss statements of such company for not more than the five preceding fiscal years, certified, if required by the rules and regulations of the Commission by an independent public accountant,

(H) any further information regarding such company and any associate company or affiliate thereof, or its relations with the applicant company, and

(I) if the applicant be not a registered holding company, any of the information and documents which may be required under section 5 from a registered holding company;

(2) in the case of the acquisition of utility assets, such information concerning such assets, the value

thereof and consideration to be paid therefor, the owner or owners thereof and their relation to, agreements with, and interest in the securities of, the applicant or any associate company thereof as the Commission may by rules and regulations or order prescribe as necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers; and

(3) in the case of the acquisition of any other interest in any business, such information concerning such business and the interest to be acquired, and the consideration to be paid, as the Commission may by rules and regulations or order prescribe as necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers.

(b) If the requirements of subsection (f) are satisfied, the Commission shall approve the acquisition unless the Commission finds that—

(1) such acquisition will tend towards interlocking relations or the concentration of control of public-utility companies, of a kind or to an extent detrimental to the public interest or the interest of investors or consumers;

(2) in case of the acquisition of securities or utility assets, the consideration, including all fees, commissions, and other remuneration, to whomsoever paid, to be given, directly or indirectly, in connection with such acquisition is not reasonable or does not bear a fair relation to the sums invested in or the earning capacity of the utility assets to be acquired or the utility assets underlying the securities to be acquired; or

(3) such acquisition will unduly complicate the capital structure of the holding-company system of the applicant or will be detrimental to the public interest or the interest of investors or consumers or the proper functioning of such holding-company system.

The Commission may condition its approval of the acquisition of securities of another company upon such a fair offer to purchase such of the other securities of the company whose security is to be acquired as the Commission

may find necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b), the Commission shall not approve—

(1) an acquisition of securities or utility assets, or of any other interest, which is unlawful under the provisions of section 8 or is detrimental to the carrying out of the provisions of section 11; or

(2) the acquisition of securities or utility assets of a public-utility or holding company unless the Commission finds that such acquisition will serve the public interest by tending towards the economical and efficient development of an integrated public-utility system. This paragraph shall not apply to the acquisition of securities or utility assets of a public-utility company operating exclusively outside the United States.

(d) Within such reasonable time after the filing of an application under this section as the Commission shall fix by rules and regulations or order, the Commission shall enter an order either granting or, after notice and opportunity for hearing, denying approval of the acquisition unless the applicant shall withdraw its application. Amendments to an application may be made upon such terms and conditions as the Commission may prescribe.

(e) The Commission, in any order approving the acquisition of securities or utility assets, may prescribe such terms and conditions in respect of such acquisition, including the price to be paid for such securities or utility assets, as the Commission may find necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers.

(f) The Commission shall not approve any acquisition as to which an application is made under this section unless it appears to the satisfaction of the Commission that such State laws as may apply in respect of such acquisition have been complied with, except where the Commission finds that compliance with such State laws would be detrimental to the carrying out of the provisions of section 11.

SIMPLIFICATION OF HOLDING-COMPANY SYSTEMS

SEC. 11. (a) It shall be the duty of the Commission to examine the corporate structure of every registered holding company and subsidiary company thereof, the relationships among the companies in the holding-company system of every such company and the character of the interests thereof and the properties owned or controlled thereby to determine the extent to which the corporate structure of such holding-company system and the companies therein may be simplified, unnecessary complexities therein eliminated, voting power fairly and equitably distributed among the holders of securities thereof, and the properties and business thereof confined to those necessary or appropriate to the operations of an integrated public-utility system.

(b) It shall be the duty of the Commission, as soon as practicable after January 1, 1938:

(1) To require by order, after notice and opportunity for hearing, that each registered holding company, and each subsidiary company thereof, shall take such action as the Commission shall find necessary to limit the operations of the holding-company system of which such company is a part to a single integrated public-utility system, and to such other businesses as are reasonably incidental, or economically necessary or appropriate to the operations of such integrated public-utility system: *Provided, however,* That the Commission shall permit a registered holding company to continue to control one or more additional integrated public-utility systems, if, after notice and opportunity for hearing, it finds that—

(A) Each of such additional systems cannot be operated as an independent system without the loss of substantial economies which can be secured by the retention of control by such holding company of such system;

(B) All of such additional systems are located in one State, or in adjoining States, or in a contiguous foreign country; and

(C) The continued combination of such systems under the control of such holding company is not so

large (considering the state of the art and the area or region affected) as to impair the advantages of localized management, efficient operation, or the effectiveness of regulation.

The Commission may permit as reasonably incidental, or economically necessary or appropriate to the operations of one or more integrated public-utility systems the retention of an interest in any business (other than the business of a public-utility company as such) which the Commission shall find necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers and not detrimental to the proper functioning of such system or systems.

(2) To require by order, after notice and opportunity for hearing, that each registered holding company, and each subsidiary company thereof, shall take such steps as the Commission shall find necessary to ensure that the corporate structure or continued existence of any company in the holding-company system does not unduly or unnecessarily complicate the structure, or unfairly or inequitably distribute voting power among security holders, of such holding-company system. In carrying out the provisions of this paragraph the Commission shall require each registered holding company (and any company in the same holding-company system with such holding company) to take such action as the Commission shall find necessary in order that such holding company shall cease to be a holding company with respect to each of its subsidiary companies which itself has a subsidiary company which is a holding company. Except for the purpose of fairly and equitably distributing voting power among the security holders of such company, nothing in this paragraph shall authorize the Commission to require any change in the corporate structure or existence of any company which is not a holding company, or of any company whose principal business is that of a public-utility company.

The Commission may by order revoke or modify any order previously made under this subsection, if, after notice and opportunity for hearing, it finds that the conditions upon which the order was predicated do not exist. Any order

made under this subsection shall be subject to judicial review as provided in section 24.

(c) Any order under subsection (b) shall be complied with within one year from the date of such order; but the Commission shall upon a showing (made before or after the entry of such order) that the applicant has been or will be unable in the exercise of due diligence to comply with such order within such time, extend such time for an additional period not exceeding one year if it finds such extension necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers.

(d) The Commission may apply to a court, in accordance with the provisions of subsection (f) of section 18, to enforce compliance with any order issued under subsection (b). In any such proceeding, the court as a court of equity may, to such extent as it deems necessary for purposes of enforcement of such order, take exclusive jurisdiction and possession of the company or companies and the assets thereof, wherever located; and the court shall have jurisdiction, in any such proceeding, to appoint a trustee, and the court may constitute and appoint the Commission as sole trustee, to hold or administer under the direction of the court the assets so possessed. In any proceeding for the enforcement of an order of the Commission issued under subsection (b), the trustee with the approval of the court shall have power to dispose of any or all of such assets and, subject to such terms and conditions as the court may prescribe, may make such disposition in accordance with a fair and equitable reorganization plan which shall have been approved by the Commission after opportunity for hearing. Such reorganization plan may be proposed in the first instance by the Commission, or, subject to such rules and regulations as the Commission may deem necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors, by any person having a bona fide interest (as defined by the rules and regulations of the Commission) in the reorganization.

(e) In accordance with such rules and regulations or order as the Commission may deem necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers, any registered holding company or any subsidiary company of a registered holding company may,

at any time after January 1, 1936, submit a plan to the Commission for the divestment of control, securities, or other assets, or for other action by such company or any subsidiary company thereof for the purpose of enabling such company or any subsidiary company thereof to comply with the provisions of subsection (b). If, after notice and opportunity for hearing, the Commission shall find such plan, as submitted or as modified, necessary to effectuate the provisions of subsection (b) and fair and equitable to the persons affected by such plan, the Commission shall make an order approving such plan; and the Commission, at the request of the company, may apply to a court, in accordance with the provisions of subsection (f) of section 18, to enforce and carry out the terms and provisions of such plan. If, upon any such application, the court, after notice and opportunity for hearing, shall approve such plan as fair and equitable and as appropriate to effectuate the provisions of section 11, the court as a court of equity may, to such extent as it deems necessary for the purpose of carrying out the terms and provisions of such plan, take exclusive jurisdiction and possession of the company or companies and the assets thereof, wherever located; and the court shall have jurisdiction to appoint a trustee, and the court may constitute and appoint the Commission as sole trustee, to hold or administer, under the direction of the court and in accordance with the plan theretofore approved by the court and the Commission, the assets so possessed.

(f) In any proceeding in a court of the United States, whether under this section or otherwise, in which a receiver or trustee is appointed for any registered holding company, or any subsidiary company thereof, the court may constitute and appoint the Commission as sole trustee or receiver, subject to the directions and orders of the court, whether or not a trustee or receiver shall theretofore have been appointed, and in any such proceeding the court shall not appoint any person other than the Commission as trustee or receiver without notifying the Commission and giving it an opportunity to be heard before making any such appointment. In no proceeding under this section or otherwise shall the Commission be appointed as trustee or receiver without its express consent. In any such proceeding a reorganization plan for a registered holding company

or any subsidiary company thereof shall not become effective unless such plan shall have been approved by the Commission after opportunity for hearing prior to its submission to the court. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any such reorganization plan may be proposed in the first instance by the Commission or, subject to such rules and regulations as the Commission may deem necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors, by any person having a bona fide interest (as defined by the rules and regulations of the Commission) in the reorganization. The Commission may, by such rules and regulations or order as it may deem necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers, require that any or all fees, expenses, and remuneration, to whomsoever paid, in connection with any reorganization, dissolution, liquidation, bankruptcy, or receivership of a registered holding company or subsidiary company thereof, in any such proceeding, shall be subject to approval by the Commission.

(g) It shall be unlawful for any person to solicit or permit the use of his or its name to solicit, by use of the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, or otherwise, any proxy, consent, authorization, power of attorney, deposit, or dissent in respect of any reorganization plan of a registered holding company or any subsidiary company thereof under this section, or otherwise, or in respect of any plan under this section for the divestment of control, securities, or other assets, or for the dissolution of any registered holding company or any subsidiary company thereof, unless—

(1) the plan has been proposed by the Commission, or the plan and such information regarding it and its sponsors as the Commission may deem necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers has been submitted to the Commission by a person having a bona fide interest (as defined by the rules and regulations of the Commission) in such reorganization;

(2) each such solicitation is accompanied or preceded by a copy of a report on the plan which shall be made by the Commission after an opportunity for a hearing on the plan and other plans submitted to it,

or by an abstract of such report made or approved by the Commission; and

(3) each such solicitation is made not in contravention of such rules and regulations or orders as the Commission may deem necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers.

Nothing in this subsection or the rules and regulations thereunder shall prevent any person from appearing before the Commission or any court through an attorney or proxy.

INTERCOMPANY LOANS; DIVIDENDS; SECURITY TRANSACTIONS; SALE OF UTILITY ASSETS; PROXIES; OTHER TRANSACTIONS

SEC. 12. (a) It shall be unlawful for any registered holding company, by use of the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, or otherwise, directly or indirectly, to borrow, or to receive any extension of credit or indemnity, from any public-utility company in the same holding-company system or from any subsidiary company of such holding company, but it shall not be unlawful under this subsection to renew, or extend the time of, any loan, credit, or indemnity outstanding on the date of the enactment of this title.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any registered holding company or subsidiary company thereof, by use of the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, or otherwise, directly or indirectly, to lend or in any manner extend its credit to or indemnify any company in the same holding-company system in contravention of such rules and regulations or orders as the Commission deems necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers or to prevent the circumvention of the provisions of this title or the rules, regulations, or orders thereunder.

(c) It shall be unlawful for any registered holding company or any subsidiary company thereof, by use of the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, or otherwise, to declare or pay any dividend on any security of such company or to acquire, retire, or redeem any security of such company, in contravention of such

rules and regulations or orders as the Commission deems necessary or appropriate to protect the financial integrity of companies in holding-company systems, to safeguard the working capital of public-utility companies, to prevent the payment of dividends out of capital or unearned surplus, or to prevent the circumvention of the provisions of this title or the rules, regulations, or orders thereunder.

(d) It shall be unlawful for any registered holding company, by use of the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, or otherwise, to sell any security which it owns of any public-utility company, or any utility assets, in contravention of such rules and regulations or orders regarding the consideration to be received for such sale, maintenance of competitive conditions, fees and commissions, accounts, disclosure of interest, and similar matters as the Commission deems necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers or to prevent the circumvention of the provisions of this title or the rules, regulations, or orders thereunder.

(e) It shall be unlawful for any person to solicit or to permit the use of his or its name to solicit, by use of the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, or otherwise, any proxy, power of attorney, consent, or authorization regarding any security of a registered holding company or a subsidiary company thereof in contravention of such rules and regulations or orders as the Commission deems necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers or to prevent the circumvention of the provisions of this title or the rules, regulations, or orders thereunder.

(f) It shall be unlawful for any registered holding company or subsidiary company thereof, by use of the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, or otherwise, to negotiate, enter into, or take any step in the performance of any transaction not otherwise unlawful under this title, with any company in the same holding-company system or with any affiliate of a company in such holding-company system in contravention of such rules and regulations or orders regarding reports, accounts, costs, maintenance of competitive conditions, disclosure of interest, duration of contracts, and similar matters as the

Commission deems necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers or to prevent the circumvention of the provisions of this title or the rules and regulations thereunder.

(g) It shall be unlawful for any affiliate of any public-utility company, by use of the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, or for any affiliate of any public-utility company engaged in interstate commerce, or of any registered holding company or any subsidiary company thereof, by use of the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, or otherwise, to negotiate, enter into, or take any step in the performance of any transaction not otherwise unlawful under this title, with any such company of which it is an affiliate, in contravention of such rules and regulations or orders regarding reports, accounts, costs, maintenance of competitive conditions, disclosure of interest, duration of contracts, and similar matters as the Commission deems necessary or appropriate to prevent the circumvention of the provisions of this title.

(h) It shall be unlawful for any registered holding company, or any subsidiary company thereof, by use of the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, or otherwise, directly or indirectly—

(1) to make any contribution whatsoever in connection with the candidacy, nomination, election or appointment of any person for or to any office or position in the Government of the United States, a State, or any political subdivision of a State, or any agency, authority, or instrumentality of any one or more of the foregoing; or

(2) to make any contribution to or in support of any political party or any committee or agency thereof.

The term "contribution" as used in this subsection includes any gift, subscription, loan, advance, or deposit of money or anything of value, and includes any contract, agreement, or promise, whether or not legally enforceable, to make a contribution.

(i) It shall be unlawful for any person employed or retained by any registered holding company, or any sub-

sidiary company thereof, to present, advocate, or oppose any matter affecting any registered holding company or any subsidiary company thereof, before the Congress or any Member or committee thereof, or before the Commission or Federal Power Commission, or any member, officer, or employee of either such Commission, unless such person shall file with the Commission in such form and detail and at such time as the Commission shall by rules and regulations or order prescribe as necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers, a statement of the subject matter in respect of which such person is retained or employed, the nature and character of such retainer or employment, and the amount of compensation received or to be received by such person, directly or indirectly, in connection therewith. It shall be the duty of every such person so employed or retained to file with the Commission within ten days after the close of each calandar month during such retainer or employment, in such form and detail as the Commission shall by rules and regulations or order prescribe as necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers, a statement of the expenses incurred and the compensation received by such person during such month in connection with such retainer or employment.

SERVICE, SALES, AND CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS

SEC. 13. (a) After April 1, 1936, it shall be unlawful for any registered holding company, by use of the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, or otherwise, to enter into or take any step in the performance of any service, sales or construction contract by which such company undertakes to perform services or construction work for, or sell goods to, any associate company thereof which is a public-utility or mutual service company. This provision shall not apply to such transactions, involving special or unusual circumstances or not in the ordinary course of business, as the Commission by rules and regulations or order may conditionally or unconditionally exempt as being necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers.

(b) After April 1, 1936, it shall be unlawful for any subsidiary company of any registered holding company

or for any mutual service company, by use of the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, or otherwise, to enter into or take any step in the performance of any service, sales, or construction contract by which such company undertakes to perform services or construction work for, or sell goods to, any associate company thereof except in accordance with such terms and conditions and subject to such limitations and prohibitions as the Commission by rules and regulations or order shall prescribe as necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers and to insure that such contracts are performed economically and efficiently for the benefit of such associate companies at cost, fairly and equitably allocated among such companies. This provision shall not apply to such transactions as the Commission by rules and regulations or order may conditionally or unconditionally exempt as being necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers, if such transactions (1) are with any associate company which does not derive, directly or indirectly, any material part of its income from sources within the United States and which is not a public-utility company operating within the United States, or (2) involve special or unusual circumstances or are not in the ordinary course of business.

(c) The rules and regulations and orders of the Commission under this section may prescribe, among other things, such terms and conditions regarding the determination of costs and the allocation thereof among specified classes of companies and for specified classes of service, sales, and construction contracts, the duration of such contracts, the making and keeping of accounts and cost-accounting procedures, the filing of annual and other periodic and special reports, the maintenance of competitive conditions, the disclosure of interests, and similar matters, as the Commission deems necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers.

(d) The rules and regulations and orders of the Commission under this section shall prescribe, among other things, such terms and conditions regarding the manner in which application may be made for approval as a mutual

service company and the granting and continuance of such approval, the nature and enforcement of agreements for the sharing of expenses and distributing of revenues among member companies, and matters relating to such agreements, the nature and types of businesses and transactions in which mutual service companies may engage, and the manner of engaging therein, and the relations and transactions with member companies and affiliates, as the Commission deems necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers. The Commission shall not approve, or continue the approval of, any company as a mutual service company unless the Commission finds such company is so organized as to ownership, costs, revenues, and the sharing thereof as reasonably to insure the efficient and economical performance of service, sales, or construction contracts by such company for member companies at cost fairly and equitably allocated among such member companies, at a reasonable saving to member companies over the cost to such companies of comparable contracts performed by independent persons. The Commission, upon its own motion or at the request of a member company or a State commission, may, after notice and opportunity for hearing, by order require a reallocation or reapportionment of costs among member companies of a mutual service company if it finds the existing allocation inequitable and may require the elimination of a service or services to a member company which does not bear its fair proportion of costs or which, by reason of its size or other circumstances, does not require such service or services. The Commission, after notice and opportunity for hearing, by order shall revoke, suspend, or modify the approval given any mutual service company if it finds that such company has persistently violated any provision of this section or any rule, regulation, or order thereunder.

(e) It shall be unlawful for any affiliate of any public-utility company engaged in interstate commerce, or of any registered holding company or subsidiary company thereof, by use of the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, or otherwise, to enter into or take any step in the performance of any service, sales, or construction contract, by which such affiliate undertakes to perform services or construction work for, or sell goods to, any such company of which it is an affiliate, in contra-

vention of such rules and regulations or orders regarding reports, accounts, costs, maintenance of competitive conditions, disclosure of interest, duration of contracts, and similar matters, as the Commission deems necessary or appropriate to prevent the circumvention of the provisions of this title or the rules, regulations, or orders thereunder.

(f) It shall be unlawful for any person whose principal business is the performance of service, sales, or construction contracts for public-utility or holding companies, by use of the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, to enter into or take any step in the performance of any service, sales, or construction contract with any public-utility company, or for any such person, by use of the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, or otherwise, to enter into or take any step in the performance of any service, sales, or construction contract with any public-utility company engaged in interstate commerce, or with any registered holding company or any subsidiary company of a registered holding company, in contravention of such rules and regulations or orders regarding reports, accounts, costs, maintenance of competitive conditions, disclosure of interest, duration of contracts, and similar matters as the Commission deems necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers or to prevent the circumvention of the provisions of this title or the rules, regulations, or orders thereunder.

(g) The Commission, in order to obtain information to serve ~~as a basis~~ for recommending further legislation, shall ~~from time to time~~ conduct investigations regarding the ~~making~~, performance, and costs of service, sales, and construction contracts with holding companies and ~~subsidiary~~ companies thereof and with public-utility companies, the economies resulting therefrom, and the desirability thereof. The Commission shall report to Congress, from time to time, the results of such investigations, together with such recommendations for legislation as it deems advisable. On the basis of such investigations the Commission shall classify the different types of such contracts and the work done thereunder, and shall make recommendations from time to time regarding the standards and scope of such contracts in relation to public-utility com-

panies of different kinds and sizes and the costs incurred thereunder and economies resulting therefrom. Such recommendations shall be made available to State Commissions, public-utility companies, and to the public in such form and at such reasonable charge as the Commission may prescribe.

PERIODIC AND OTHER REPORTS

SEC. 14. Every registered holding company and every mutual service company shall file with the Commission such annual, quarterly, and other periodic and special reports, the answers to such specific questions and the minutes of such directors', stockholders', and other meetings, as the Commission may by rules and regulations or order prescribe as necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers. Such reports, if required by the rules and regulations of the Commission, shall be certified by an independent public accountant, and shall be made and filed at such time and in such form and detail as the Commission shall prescribe. The Commission may require that there be included in reports filed with it such information and documents as it finds necessary or appropriate to keep reasonably current the information filed under section 5 or 13, and such further information concerning the financial conditions, security structure, security holdings, assets, and cost thereof, wherever determinable, and affiliations of the reporting company and the associate companies, member companies, and affiliates thereof as the Commission deems necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers.

ACCOUNTS AND RECORDS

SEC. 15. (a) Every registered holding company and every subsidiary company thereof shall make, keep, and preserve for such periods, such accounts, cost-accounting procedures, correspondence, memoranda, papers, books, and other records as the Commission deems necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers or for the enforcement of the provisions of this title or the rules, regulations, or orders thereunder.

(b) Every affiliate of a registered holding company or of any subsidiary company thereof, or of any public-utility company engaged in interstate commerce or not so engaged, shall make, keep, and preserve for such periods, such accounts, cost-accounting procedures, correspondence, memoranda, papers, books, and other records relating to any transaction of such affiliate which is subject to any provision of this title or any rule, regulation, or order thereunder, as the Commission deems necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers or for the enforcement of the provisions of this title or the rules, regulations, or orders thereunder.

(c) Every mutual service company, and every affiliate of a mutual service company as to any transaction of such affiliate which is subject to any provision of this title or any rule, regulation, or order thereunder, shall make, keep, and preserve for such periods, such accounts, cost-accounting procedures, correspondence, memoranda, papers, books, and other records, as the Commission deems necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers or for the enforcement of the provisions of this title or the rules, regulations, or orders thereunder.

(d) Every person whose principal business is the performance of service, sales, or construction contracts for public-utility or holding companies shall make, keep, and preserve for such periods, such accounts, cost-accounting procedures, correspondence, memoranda, papers, books, and other records, relating to any transaction by such person which is subject to any provision of this title or any rule, regulation, or order thereunder, as the Commission deems necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers or for the enforcement of the provisions of this title or the rules and regulations thereunder.

(e) After the Commission has prescribed the form and manner of making and keeping accounts, cost-accounting procedures, correspondence, memoranda, papers, books, and other records to be kept by any person hereunder, it shall be unlawful for any such person to keep any accounts, cost-accounting procedures, correspondence, memoranda, papers, books, or other records other than those prescribed or such

as may be approved by the Commission, or to keep his or its accounts, cost-accounting procedures, correspondence, memoranda, papers, books, or other records in any manner other than that prescribed or approved by the Commission.

(f) All accounts, cost-accounting procedures, correspondence, memoranda, papers, books, and other records kept or required to be kept by persons subject to any provision of this section shall be subject at any time and from time to time to such reasonable periodic, special, and other examinations by the Commission, or any member or representative thereof, as the Commission may prescribe. The Commission, after notice and opportunity for hearing, may prescribe the account or accounts in which particular outlays, receipts and other transactions shall be entered, charged, or credited and the manner in which such entry, charge, or credit shall be made, and may require an entry to be modified or supplemented so as properly to show the cost of any asset or any other cost.

(g) It shall be the duty of every registered holding company and of every subsidiary company thereof and of every affiliate of a company in so far as such affiliate is subject to any provision of this title or any rule, regulation, or order thereunder, to submit the accounts, cost-accounting procedures, correspondence, memoranda, papers, books, and other records of such holding company, subsidiary company, or affiliate, as the case may be, to such examinations, in person or by duly appointed attorney, by the holder of any security of such holding company, subsidiary company, or affiliate, as the case may be, as the Commission deems necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers.

(h) It shall be the duty of every mutual service company, and of every affiliate of a mutual service company, and of every person whose principal business is the performance of service, sales, or construction contracts for public-utility or holding companies, in so far as such affiliate or such person is subject to any provision of this title or any rule, regulation, or order thereunder, to submit the accounts, cost-accounting procedures, correspondence, memoranda, papers, books, and other records of such mutual service company, affiliate, or person to such examinations, in person or by duly appointed attorney, by

member companies of such mutual service company and by public-utility or holding companies for which such person performs service, sales, or construction contracts as the Commission deems necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers.

(i) The Commission, by such rules and regulations as it deems necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers may prescribe for persons subject to the provisions of subsection (a), (b), (c), or (d) of this section uniform methods for keeping accounts required under any provision of this section, including, among other things, the manner in which the cost of all assets, whenever determinable, shall be shown, the methods of classifying and segregating accounts, and the manner in which cost-accounting procedures shall be maintained.

LIABILITY FOR MISLEADING STATEMENTS

SEC. 16. (a) Any person who shall make or cause to be made any statement in any application, report, registration statement, or document filed pursuant to any provision of this title, or any rule, regulation, or order thereunder, which statement was at the time and in the light of the circumstances under which it was made false or misleading with respect to any material fact shall be liable in the same manner, to the same extent, and subject to the same limitations as provided in section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 with respect to an application, report, or document filed pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

(b) The rights and remedies provided by this title, except as provided in section 17 (b), shall be in addition to any and all other rights and remedies that may exist under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or otherwise at law or in equity; but no person permitted to maintain a suit for damages under the provisions of this title shall recover, through satisfaction of judgment in one or more actions, a total amount in excess of his actual damages on account of the act complained of.

OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND OTHER AFFILIATES

SEC. 17. (a) Every person who is an officer or director of a registered holding company shall file with the Commission in such form as the Commission shall prescribe (1) at the time of the registration of such holding company, or within ten days after such person becomes an officer or director, a statement of the securities of such registered holding company or any subsidiary company thereof of which he is, directly or indirectly, the beneficial owner, and (2) within ten days after the close of each calendar month thereafter, if there has been any change in such ownership during such month, a statement of such ownership as of the close of such calendar month and of the changes in such ownership that have occurred during such calendar month.

(b) For the purpose of preventing the unfair use of information which may have been obtained by any such officer or director by reason of his relationship to such registered holding company or any subsidiary company thereof, any profit realized by any such officer or director from any purchase and sale, or any sale and purchase, of any security of such registered holding company or any subsidiary company thereof within any period of less than six months, unless such security was acquired in good faith in connection with a debt previously contracted, shall inure to and be recoverable by the holding company or subsidiary company in respect of the security of which such profit was realized, irrespective of any intention on the part of such officer or director in entering into such transaction to hold the security purchased or not to repurchase the security sold for a period of more than six months. Suit to recover such profit may be instituted at law or in equity in any court of competent jurisdiction by the company entitled thereto or by the owner of any security of such company in the name and in the behalf of such company if such company shall fail or refuse to bring such suit within sixty days after request or shall fail diligently to prosecute the same thereafter; but no such suit shall be brought more than two years after the date such profit was realized. This subsection shall not cover any transaction where such person was not an officer or director at the times of the purchase and sale, or the sale and purchase, of the security involved, or any transaction or transactions which the Commission by

rules and regulations may, as necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers, exempt as not comprehended within the purpose of this subsection. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to give a remedy in the case of any transaction in respect of which a remedy is given under subsection (b) of section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

(c) After one year from the date of the enactment of this title, no registered holding company or any subsidiary company thereof shall have, as an officer or director thereof, any executive officer, director, partner, appointee, or representative of any bank, trust company, investment banker, or banking association or firm, or any executive officer, director, partner, appointee, or representative of any corporation a majority of whose stock, having the unrestricted right to vote for the election of directors, is owned by any bank, trust company, investment banker, or banking association or firm, except in such cases as rules and regulations prescribed by the Commission may permit as not adversely affecting the public interest or the interest of investors or consumers.

INVESTIGATIONS; INJUNCTIONS, ENFORCEMENT OF TITLE, AND PROSECUTION OF OFFENCES

SEC. 18. (a) The Commission, in its discretion, may investigate any facts, conditions, practices, or matters which it may deem necessary or appropriate to determine whether any person has violated or is about to violate any provision of this title or any rule or regulation thereunder, or to aid in the enforcement of the provisions of this title, in the prescribing of rules and regulations thereunder, or in obtaining information to serve as a basis for recommending further legislation concerning the matters to which this title relates. The Commission may require or permit any person to file with it a statement in writing, under oath or otherwise as it shall determine, as to any or all facts and circumstances concerning a matter which may be the subject of investigation. The Commission, in its discretion, may publish, or make available to State commissions, information concerning any such subject.

(b) The Commission upon its own motion or at the request of a State commission may investigate, or obtain any

information regarding the business, financial condition, or practices of any registered holding company or subsidiary company thereof or facts, conditions, practices, or matters affecting the relations between any such company and any other company or companies in the same holding-company system.

(c) For the purpose of any investigation or any other proceeding under this title, any member of the Commission, or any officer thereof designated by it, is empowered to administer oaths and affirmations, subpena witnesses, compel their attendance, take evidence, and require the production of any books, papers, correspondence, memoranda, contracts, agreements, or other records which the Commission deems relevant or material to the inquiry. Such attendance of witnesses and the production of any such records may be required from any place in any State or in any Territory or other place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States at any designated place of hearing.

(d) In case of contumacy by, or refusal to obey a subpena issued to, any person, the Commission may invoke the aid of any court of the United States within the jurisdiction of which such investigation or proceeding is carried on, or where such person resides or carries on business, in requiring the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of books, papers, correspondence, memoranda, contracts, agreements, and other records. And such court may issue an order requiring such person to appear before the Commission or member or officer designated by the Commission, there to produce records, if so ordered, or to give testimony touching the matter under investigation or in question; and any failure to obey such order of the court may be punished by such court as a contempt thereof. All process in any such case may be served in the judicial district whereof such person is an inhabitant or wherever he may be found. Any person who, without just cause, shall fail or refuse to attend and testify or to answer any lawful inquiry or to produce books, papers, correspondence, memoranda, contracts, agreements, or other records, if in his or its power so to do, in obedience to the subpena of the Commission, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction, shall be subject to a fine of not more than $1,000 or to imprisonment for a term of not more than one year, or both.

(e) No person shall be excused from attending and testifying or from producing books, papers, correspondence, memoranda, contracts, agreements, or other records and documents before the Commission, or in obedience to the subpena of the Commission or any member thereof or any officer designated by it, or in any cause or proceeding instituted by the Commission, on the ground that the testimony or evidence, documentary or otherwise, required of him may tend to incriminate him or subject him to a penalty or forfeiture; but no individual shall be prosecuted or subject to any penalty or forfeiture for or on account of any transaction, matter or thing concerning which he is compelled to testify or produce evidence, documentary or otherwise, after having claimed his privilege against self-incrimination, except that such individual so testifying shall not be exempt from prosecution and punishment for perjury committed in so testifying.

(f) Whenever it shall appear to the Commission that any person is engaged or about to engage in any acts or practices which constitute or will constitute a violation of the provisions of this title, or of any rule, regulation, or order thereunder, it may in its discretion bring an action in the proper district court of the United States, the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, or the United States courts of any Territory or other place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, to enjoin such acts or practices and to enforce compliance with this title or any rule, regulation, or order thereunder, and upon a proper showing a permanent or temporary injunction or decree or restraining order shall be granted without bond. The Commission may transmit such evidence as may be available concerning such acts or practices to the Attorney General, who, in his discretion, may institute the appropriate criminal proceedings under this title.

(g) Upon application of the Commission, the district courts of the United States, the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, and the United States courts of any Territory or other place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States shall have jurisdiction to issue writs of mandamus commanding any person to comply with the provisions of this title or any rule, regulation, or order of the Commission thereunder.

HEARINGS BY COMMISSION

SEC. 19. Hearings may be public and may be held before the Commission, any member or members thereof, or any officer or officers of the Commission designated by it, and appropriate records thereof shall be kept. In any proceeding before the Commission, the Commission, in accordance with such rules and regulations as it may prescribe, shall admit as a party any interested State, State commission, State securities commission, municipality, or other political subdivision of a State, and may admit as a party any representative of interested consumers or security holders, or any other person whose participation in the proceedings may be in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers.

RULES, REGULATIONS, AND ORDERS

SEC. 20. (a) The Commission shall have authority from time to time to make, issue, amend, and rescind such rules and regulations and such orders as it may deem necessary or appropriate to carry out the provisions of this title, including rules and regulations defining accounting, technical, and trade terms used in this title. Among other things, the Commission shall have authority, for the purposes of this title, to prescribe the form or forms in which information required in any statement, declaration, application, report, or other document filed with the Commission shall be set forth, the items or details to be shown in balance sheets, profit and loss statements, and surplus accounts, the manner in which the cost of all assets, whenever determinable, shall be shown in regard to such statements, declarations, applications, reports, and other documents filed with the Commission, or accounts required to be kept by the rules, regulations, or orders of the Commission, and the methods to be followed in the keeping of accounts and cost-accounting procedures and the preparation of reports, in the segregation and allocation of costs, in the determination of liabilities, in the determination of depreciation and depletion, in the differentiation of recurring and nonrecurring income, in the differentiation of investment and operating income, and in the keeping or preparation, where the Commission deems it necessary or appropriate, of separate or consolidated balance sheets or profit and loss statements for any companies in the same holding-company system.

(b) In the case of the accounts of any company whose methods of accounting are prescribed under the provisions of any law of the United States or of any State, the rules and regulations or orders of the Commission in respect of accounts shall not be inconsistent with the requirements imposed by such law or any rule or regulation thereunder; nor shall anything in this title relieve any public-utility company from the duty to keep the accounts, books, records, or memoranda which may be required to be kept by the law of any State in which it operates or by the State commission of any such State. But this provision shall not prevent the Commission from imposing such additional requirements regarding reports or accounts as it may deem necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers.

(c) The rules and regulations of the Commission shall be effective upon publication in the manner which the Commission shall prescribe. For the purpose of its rules, regulations, or orders the Commission may classify persons and matters within its jurisdiction and prescribe different requirements for different classes of persons or matters. Orders of the Commission under this title shall be issued only after opportunity for hearing.

(d) The Commission by such rules and regulations or order as it deems necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers, may authorize the filing of any information or documents required to be filed with the Commission under this title, or under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, by incorporating by reference any information or documents theretofore or concurrently filed with the Commission under this title or either of such Acts. No provision of this title imposing any liability shall apply to any act done or omitted in good faith in conformity with any rule, regulation, or order of the Commission, notwithstanding that such rule, regulation, or order may, after such act or omission, be amended or rescinded or be determined by judicial or other authority to be invalid for any reason.

EFFECT ON EXISTING LAW

SEC. 21. Nothing in this title shall affect (1) the jurisdiction of the Commission under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 over any person, security, or contract, or (2) the rights, obligations, duties, or liabilities of any person under such Acts; nor shall anything in this title affect the jurisdiction of any other commission, board, agency, or officer of the United States or of any State or political subdivision of any State, over any person, security, or contract, insofar as such jurisdiction does not conflict with any provision of this title or any rule, regulation, or order thereunder.

INFORMATION FILED WITH THE COMMISSION

SEC. 22. (a) When in the judgment of the Commission the disclosure of such information would be in the public interest or the interest of investors or consumers, the information contained in any statement, application, declaration, report, or other document filed with the Commission shall be available to the public, and copies thereof may be furnished to any person at such reasonable charge and under such reasonable limitations as the Commission may prescribe: *Provided, however,* That nothing in this title shall be construed to require, or to authorize the Commission to require, the revealing of trade secrets or processes in any application, declaration, report, or document filed with the Commission under this title.

(b) Any person filing such application, declaration, report, or document may make written objection to the public disclosure of information contained therein, stating the grounds for such objection, and the Commission is authorized to hear objections in any such case where it finds it advisable.

(c) It shall be unlawful for any member, officer, or employee of the Commission to disclose to any person other than a member, officer, or employee of the Commission, or to use for personal benefit, any information contained in any application, declaration, report, or document filed with the Commission which is not made available to the public pursuant to this section.

ANNUAL REPORTS OF COMMISSION

SEC. 23. The Commission shall submit annually a report to the Congress covering the work of the Commission for the preceding year and including such information, data, and recommendations for further legislation in connection with the matters covered by this title as it may find advisable.

COURT REVIEW OF ORDERS

SEC. 24. (a) Any person or party aggrieved by an order issued by the Commission under this title may obtain a review of such order in the circuit court of appeals of the United States within any circuit wherein such person resides or has his principal place of business, or in the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, by filing in such court, within sixty days after the entry of such order, a written petition praying that the order of the Commission be modified or set aside in whole or in part. A copy of such petition shall be forthwith served upon any member of the Commission, or upon any officer thereof designated by the Commission for that purpose, and thereupon the Commission shall certify and file in the court a transcript of the record upon which the order complained of was entered. Upon the filing of such transcript such court shall have exclusive jurisdiction to affirm, modify, or set aside such order, in whole or in part. No objection to the order of the Commission shall be considered by the court unless such objection shall have been urged before the Commission or unless there were reasonable grounds for failure so to do. The findings of the Commission as to the facts, if supported by substantial evidence, shall be conclusive. If application is made to the court for leave to adduce additional evidence, and it is shown to the satisfaction of the court that such additional evidence is material and that there were reasonable grounds for failure to adduce such evidence in the proceeding before the Commission, the court may order such additional evidence to be taken before the Commission and to be adduced upon the hearing in such manner and upon such terms and conditions as to the court may seem proper. The Commission may modify its findings as to the facts by reason of the additional evidence so taken, and it shall file with the court such modified or new findings, which, if supported by substantial

evidence, shall be conclusive, and its recommendation, if any, for the modification or setting aside of the original order. The judgment and decree of the court affirming, modifying, or setting aside, in whole or in part, any such order of the Commission shall be final, subject to review by the Supreme Court of the United States upon certiorari or certification as provided in sections 239 and 240 of the Judicial Code, as amended (U. S. C., title 28, secs. 346 and 347).

(b) The commencement of proceedings under subsection (a) shall not, unless specifically ordered by the court, operate as a stay of the Commission's order.

JURISDICTION OF OFFENSES AND SUITS

SEC. 25. The District Courts of the United States, the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, and the United States courts of any Territory or other place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States shall have jurisdiction of violations of this title or the rules, regulations, or orders thereunder, and, concurrently with State and Territorial courts, of all suits in equity and actions at law brought to enforce any liability or duty created by, or to enjoin any violation of, this title or the rules, regulations, or orders thereunder. Any criminal proceeding may be brought in the district wherein any act or transaction constituting the violation occurred. Any suit or action to enforce any liability or duty created by, or to enjoin any violation of, this title or rules, regulations, or orders thereunder, may be brought in any such district or in the district wherein the defendant is an inhabitant or transacts business, and process in such cases may be served in any district of which the defendant is an inhabitant or transacts business or wherever the defendant may be found. Judgments and decrees so rendered shall be subject to review as provided in sections 128 and 240 of the Judicial Code, as amended (U. S. C., title 28, secs. 225 and 347), and section 7, as amended, of the Act entitled "An Act to establish a court of appeals for the District of Columbia", approved February 9, 1893 (D. C. Code, title 18, sec. 26). No costs shall be assessed for or against the Commission in any proceeding under this title brought by or against the Commission in any court.

VALIDITY OF CONTRACTS

SEC. 26. (a) Any condition, stipulation, or provision binding any person to waive compliance with any provision of this title or with any rule, regulation, or order thereunder shall be void.

(b) Every contract made in violation of any provision of this title or of any rule, regulation, or order thereunder, and every contract heretofore or hereafter made, the performance of which involves the violation of, or the continuance of any relationship or practice in violation of, any provision of this title, or any rule, regulation, or order thereunder, shall be void (1) as regards the rights of any person who, in violation of any such provision, rule, regulation, or order, shall have made or engaged in the performance of any such contract, and (2) as regards the rights of any person who, not being a party to such contract, shall have acquired any right thereunder with actual knowledge of the facts by reason of which the making or performance of such contract was in violation of any such provision, rule, regulation, or order.

(c) Nothing in this title shall be construed (1) to affect the validity of any loan or extension of credit (or any extension or renewal thereof) made or of any lien created prior or subsequent to the enactment of this title, unless at the time of the making of such loan or extension of credit (or extension or renewal thereof) or the creating of such lien, the person making such loan or extension of credit (or extension or renewal thereof) or acquiring such lien shall have actual knowledge of facts by reason of which the making of such loan or extension of credit (or extension or renewal thereof) or the acquisition of such lien is a violation of the provisions of this title or any rule or regulation thereunder, or (2) to afford a defense to the collection of any debt or obligation or the enforcement of any lien by any person who shall have acquired such debt, obligation, or lien in good faith for value and without actual knowledge of the violation of any provision of this title or any rule or regulation thereunder affecting the legality of such debt, obligation, or lien.

LIABILITY OF CONTROLLING PERSONS; PREVENTING COMPLIANCE WITH TITLE

SEC. 27. (a) It shall be unlawful for any person, directly or indirectly, to cause to be done any act or thing through or by means of any other person which it would be unlawful for such person to do under the provisions of this title or any rule, regulation, or order thereunder.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person without just cause to hinder, delay, or obstruct the making, filing, or keeping of any information, document, report, record, or account required to be made, filed, or kept under any provision of this title or any rule, regulation, or order thereunder.

UNLAWFUL REPRESENTATIONS

SEC. 28. It shall be unlawful for any person in issuing, selling, or offering for sale any security of a registered holding company or subsidiary company thereof, to represent or imply in any manner whatsoever that such security has been guaranteed, sponsored, or recommended for investment by the United States or any agency or officer thereof.

PENALTIES

SEC. 29. Any person who willfully violates any provision of this title or any rule, regulation, or order thereunder (other than an order of the Commission under subsection (b), (d), (e), or (f) of section 11), or any person who willfully makes any statement or entry in any application, report, document, account, or record filed or kept or required to be filed or kept under the provisions of this title or any rule, regulation, or order thereunder, knowing such statement or entry to be false or misleading in any material respect, or any person who willfully destroys (except after such time as may be prescribed under any rules or regulations under this title), mutilates, alters, or by any means or device falsifies any account, correspondence, memorandum, book, paper, or other record kept or required to be kept under the provisions of this title or any rule, regulation, or order thereunder, shall upon conviction be fined not more than $10,000 or imprisoned not more than two years, or both, except that in the case of a

violation of a provision of subsection (a) or (b) of section 4 by a holding company which is not an individual, the fine imposed upon such holding holding company shall be a fine not exceeding $200,000; but no person shall be convicted under this section for the violation of any rule, regulation, or order if he proves that he had no knowledge of such rule, regulation, or order.

STUDY OF PUBLIC-UTILITY AND INVESTMENT COMPANIES

SEC. 30. The Commission is authorized and directed to make studies and investigations of public-utility companies, the territories served or which can be served by public-utility companies, and the manner in which the same are or can be served, to determine the sizes, types, and locations of public-utility companies which do or can operate most economically and efficiently in the public interest, in the interest of investors and consumers, and in furtherance of a wider and more economical use of gas and electric energy; upon the basis of such investigations and studies the Commission shall make public from time to time its recommendations as to the type and size of geographically and economically integrated public-utility systems which, having regard for the nature and character of the locality served, can best promote and harmonize the interests of the public, the investor and the consumer. The Commission is authorized and directed to make a study of the functions and activities of investment trusts and investment companies, the corporate structures, and investment policies of such trusts and companies, the influence exerted by such trusts and companies upon companies in which they are interested, and the influence exerted by interests affiliated with the management of such trusts and companies upon their investment policies, and to report the results of its study and its recommendations to the Congress on or before January 4, 1937.

EMPLOYEES OF THE COMMISSION

SEC. 31. For the purposes of this title, the Commission may select, employ, and fix the compensation of such attorneys, examiners, and other experts as shall be necessary for the transaction of the business of the Commission in respect of this title without regard to the provisions of other

laws applicable to the employment and compensation of officers or employees of the United States; and the Commission may, subject to the civil-service laws, appoint such other officers and employees as are necessary in the execution of the functions of the Commission and fix their salaries in accordance with the Classification Act of 1923, as amended.

SEPARABILITY OF PROVISIONS

SEC. 32. If any provision of this title or the application of such provision to any person or circumstances shall be held invalid, the remainder of the title and the application of such provision to persons or circumstances other than those as to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

SHORT TITLE

SEC. 33. This title may be cited as the "Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935".